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Kent on Sunday

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Don't blame Government for housing targets, says Deputy PM

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

DEPUTY Prime Minister Nick Clegg has waded into the row over development in Kent, disputing claims that high house-building targets are being forced on councils by central government.

In a letter to Lib Dem campaigners in Maidstone, Mr Clegg stressed that control was now in the hands of local authorities and that centrally-set targets had been abolished.

However, it is clear that not all, even in his own party, accept his claim, describing the Government's policy as "smoke and mirrors" and accusing the Coalition of underhand tactics forcing through building under the guise of localism.

Mr Clegg stepped into the dispute over housing after Maidstone's Lib Dem parliamentary candidate, and acquaintance of the Deputy Prime Minister, Jasper Gerard, asked for clarification of who was in charge of setting targets.

It followed concerns over the 14,800 new houses outlined for the county town in the borough council's Local Plan.

Mr Gerard and fellow Lib Dems fear that too much of the housing, proposed to be built up to 2031, will be built on greenfield sites put forward by developers. They say that the council is likely to nod through development on such sites while shifting blame to the Government by saying it is under the instruction of Whitehall.

But Mr Clegg has insisted centralised targets have been abolished and power is in local authorities' hands.

He also stressed that development should not come at the expense of the environment.

"Central control over planning has been relaxed and communities now

Continued on page 2

Picture: BECKY HITCHIN

BACK TO NATURE

JUMP TO IT! Festival of Wildlife is preparing for another top weekend – **SEE INSIDE**

AVIATION

What role will airports play?

SMALL airports such as Manston and Lydd will play a role in the future of aviation capacity in the South East, said Sir Howard Davies this week.

But he stressed it was unlikely either would be a candidate to become a hub airport for the region.

See more inside. **PAGE 16**

INTERNET

Tough talk on cyber-bullies

THE tragic death of schoolgirl Hannah Smith has seen calls for action to tackle the problem of cyber-bullying.

In her column for KoS, Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes looks at the need to enforce the law but more importantly the need to educate society. **PAGE 10**

ENTERTAINMENT

Kent sets the scene for film

KENT continues to attract film-makers and producers with its rich variety of scenery.

A new sitcom is on the horizon, to be filmed in the county, and two big-screen films, partly shot in Kent, are due for release. Find out what these are by reading inside.

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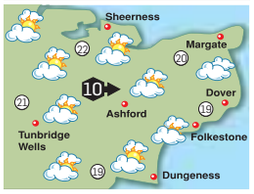

TODAY: Showery rain for a time, but it will brighten up. Moderate winds. Max temp 20-23C (68-73F). **TONIGHT:** Dry. Clear periods. Min temp 12-15C (54-59F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	02.06	6.4	14.25	6.6
Margate	03.20	4.6	15.35	4.7
St Mary's	08.03	5.3	20.20	5.4

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 21C	Min 10C
Tuesday	Max 21C	Min 11C
Wednesday	Max 21C	Min 14C
Thursday	Max 22C	Min 15C
Friday	Max 22C	Min 14C
Saturday	Max 22C	Min 13C

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DEVELOPMENT

'If the Government doesn't get what it wants it will just reject council plans'

Continued from front page

have a much greater say," wrote Mr Clegg. "While it is evident that housebuilding rates need to increase, protecting our countryside and green spaces is just as important, and there is an important balance to be struck.

"Growth and development must not come at the expense of protecting the environment.

"And with control being handed to communities, they will be able to make the most informed decisions to ensure housing developments are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable, and supported by properly planned infrastructure."

Mr Gerard said it "nailed the lie" by Tories at Maidstone, whom he claims say the council has little say in how many houses are built in the borough.

He said: "The council here is not following this sensible approach, preferring a developer-led call for sites which will result in unplanned development."

Maidstone Lib Dem councillor and planning spokesman Tony Harwood added: "The inevitable consequence is that in a few generations we will cease to be a green, rural borough and become little more than a congested and polluted extension of the Medway towns."

LETTER TO MAIDSTONE: Nick Clegg

However, Alex Perkins, a Lib Dem councillor on Tory-controlled Canterbury City Council, which unveiled its housing target of 15,000 new homes in May, called Mr Clegg's comments "rubbish".

"Central government says it's up to councils how many houses they build – but really if [the councils] don't plan enough, the Government will simply reject their Local Plans," he said.

"The whole thing is just smoke and mirrors. Localism is a lie. Nick Clegg is wrong at the end of the day.

"The Government is claiming to no longer have the power, but if it doesn't get what it wants it will just reject what the council has put forward. Localism doesn't exist – it's dishonesty.

"I don't usually praise the previous government, but at least it had the decency to impose targets. This government claims we have local decision-making, but we don't as there are conditions."

Cllr Perkins also accused the Government of using money from increased business rates to offer councils grants in the form of the New Homes Bonus as an incentive to build more houses.

"This is our money in the first place, but it will only come back to us if we build more houses," he said.

Maidstone Borough Council, which has been subject to fierce criticism over its housing target, said the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) had instructed councils to provide housing to meet population growth up to 2031. This is set out in the Local Plan, the development strategy for each district.

"The working target is based on the latest demographic forecasts, updated by Kent County Council, taking account of DCLG household projections released in November 2010," said Maidstone's Tory cabinet member for planning, development and transport, Stephen Paine. "This working figure has been independently verified as a good starting point, but more work needs to be done before it can be converted into an actual target.

"Landowners, developers and others have put forward numerous greenfield sites to accommodate some of this expected development, but it is always the priority of Maidstone Borough Council to allocate brownfield sites first.

"No decisions have been made about any sites and our Local Plan will include policies to protect our countryside."

COMING UP IN THE NEXT MONTH

Homes & Gardens
August 25
Is it time to freshen up your living environment? Then look no further than our essential guide to sprucing up your home.

Motability
September 8
Find out just what great deals can be had as we take a special look at the offers on Motability motors.

Business Quarter
September 15
All the latest business news and the movers and shakers shaping the county's economy

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IN MEMORY

Sailor's ashes scattered in the sea that almost claimed him as a boy

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

THE ashes of a wartime sailor rescued by a Kent lifeboat crew 74 years ago have been scattered in the sea where he almost perished.

Despite moving to California in 1947, Peter Piercy never forgot the bravery of the Margate RNLI crew who hauled him as a boy aged just 16 from a sinking cargo ship.

It was 1939 and the teenager was on board the cargo vessel Matra when it struck a mine off the coast of Margate during a marathon transatlantic convoy crossing at the start of the Second World War.

After the explosion, the Matra immediately started to sink and an emergency call was put out to the Margate RNLI.

There were 85 people aboard and Mr Piercy was one of 52 rescued from the Thanet waters by the RNLI.

Several more were saved from the sea by another merchant vessel, but others perished.

Lifeboat crews are often asked to scatter the ashes of loved ones at sea, but when the crew at Margate, where the service has operated since 1860, was asked to carry out this particular task it was clear that a moving story lay behind it.

Mr Piercy moved to the US in 1947 after the war was over, but he never forgot the men who had saved his life that day in Thanet.

The former merchant sailor died two years ago and it was his son, Chris Piercy, who contacted the RNLI station from America, stating it was his father's wish that that his ashes be put into the ocean off Margate and asking if they could help fulfil his request.

These wishes were finally realised when Mr Piercy's family members, including some who travelled from California and Australia, gathered to witness the current lifeboat crew scatter his ashes off the coast.

Peter Barker, from the RNLI, said: "This was a very special and memorable occasion for us all.

"It was an honour to be asked to fulfil Mr Piercy's wishes and at the same time remember the bravery of the lifeboat crew of the day in a rescue described as being 'achieved with very great difficulty owing to the injured men'. It was clearly an experience that remained with Mr Piercy for the rest of his life."

To commemorate this special occasion the lifeboat crew presented the family with a framed reproduction of the original service report that was still held at the station.

Since the RNLI was founded in 1824 its lifeboat crews and lifeguards have saved more than 137,000 lives.

FINAL WISHES: Top, Chris Piercy and relatives of Peter at the lifeboat centre. Left are some of the survivors of the sinking; Peter is in the middle

POLICE

Arrests in murder case

TWO people have been arrested on suspicion of murder in connection with the discovery of a man's body on the Isle of Sheppey.

A 44-year-old man and 43-year-old woman from London were in police custody at the time this newspaper went to press.

The body was found on Wednesday on the beach between Little Groves caravan site and Isle of Sheppey Holiday Village in Warden Bay Road, Leysdown. A post-mortem examination showed the victim had died of head injuries.

FIRE SERVICE

Cliff-climber rescued

A THRILL-SEEKER was embarrassed when his cliff-climbing exploits went wrong – leading to a rescue by the fire service.

The man became stuck in a cave halfway up the cliff-face Broadstairs. Watch manager Paul Ward said: "Having scaled the cliff, he reached his objective, then realised he was a little too nervous to climb down."

INJURED

'Hit-and-run' probe

AN ELDERLY woman was found lying in a road with head and leg injuries after a possible hit-and-run in Birchington.

The 86-year-old was found at the junction of Shakespeare Road and Beach Avenue at midday on Tuesday. It is not known whether she was hit by a vehicle.

Contact police on 01622 798535.

EXHIBITION

Bob Dylan a draw for gallery

HE is better known for writing songs than painting pictures, but Bob Dylan is continuing his foray into the art world – with a Kent shopping centre reaping the benefits.

Castle Galleries at Bluewater has unveiled six previously-unreleased limited-edition graphics from Dylan's The Drawn Blank Series.

There has been high demand and critical acclaim for the collection, which was originally released in June 2008, and now six previously-unseen graphics will be on sale at the Greenhithe shopping centre.

Each of the limited-edition graphics has just 295 copies worldwide, and each is hand-signed by the iconic musician.

The Drawn Blank Series is based on drawings made by Dylan while on the road from 1989 to 1992 and includes the titles Trailer, Bell Tower Stockholm, Corner Flat, Iron Railing and Backstage Dressing Room.

Castle Galleries Bluewater has displayed Dylan's collections periodically since 2009 and art bosses are hoping fans will look to buy one of the prints, priced between £1,750 and £5,500.

Gallery manager Peter Gilby said: "It is very exciting that we can display the works of the cultural phenomenon and artist that is Bob Dylan and share this with people.

"Art and music fans will love the release of The Drawn Blank Series 2013. Dylan uses colour in a unique way to give a new dimension to his sketches that are then transformed into new works of art, giving us some insight into one of the world's greatest icons."

Dylan himself is no stranger to the county, having played the Hop Farm Music Festival at Paddock Wood twice in the past five years.

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Protest pictures: FRACK OFF: EXTREME ENERGY ACTION NETWORK

NATIONAL ATTENTION: Above, protestors at Balcombe; centre, a drill for shale-gas extraction. Inset, MP Michael Fallon has spoken in favour of exploratory studies across southern England

ENERGY

Fracking: is it risking our

By Marijke Cox and Chris Murphy

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE dawn of the celebrated green era has barely risen and it seems that it's already about to be eclipsed.

Sustainable energy such as wind and solar is being forced to take a back seat as heated debates continue over the controversial shale-gas-extraction method of hydraulic fracturing – or fracking, as it is commonly known.

Supporters, who include many of Kent's MPs, say that an expansion of fracking will lead to cheaper gas bills while at the same time making Britain less dependent on unreliable oil imports from unstable countries.

But at a devastating cost, say opponents.

They argue that the contentious method, which involves blasting water and rock-dissolving fluids underground to break apart rocks and release shale gas, will lead to water contamination and flammable drinking water and could cause earthquakes.

It will also, they say, destroy precious land and see house prices drop.

Two sites are the focus of exploratory drilling in Kent: land by the A257 and A256, north of Woodnesborough, near Sandwich, and Cowden, near Tunbridge Wells.

Cowden has already seen test drilling take place in 2010 by energy company Cuadrilla – the firm behind the drilling in Lancashire that is believed to have been responsible for two minor earthquakes and that has now started drilling in Balcombe in West Sussex.

In east Kent, Coastal Oil and Gas Ltd was given the go-ahead by planning chiefs at Kent County Council to carry out exploratory work near Woodnesborough, although a temporary ban – later lifted on the understanding that safety procedures were in place – meant so far no such work has taken place.

Fears are that exploratory drilling, for which five companies have licences in this county, will pave the way for fracking to start if shale gas is discovered.

Recent comments made by Sevenoaks MP Michael Fallon suggesting such drilling could spread across the South East has seen Kent's anti-fracking campaigners poised, ready to jump into action, as protesters have in neighbouring Sussex, where exploratory drilling is taking place and where clashes between activists and police have already been seen.

Speaking to KoS this week, energy minister Mr Fallon said the Government believed shale gas had the potential to provide the UK with greater energy security, growth and jobs.

"We are encouraging safe and environmentally sound exploration to determine this potential. Fracturing for shale gas will only be done in a safe and environmentally sound way – and for the benefit of the local community as well as the country.

"Until we have drilled, fracked and tested a number of wells, we do not know how much can be extracted."

He stressed that no consent had been granted for hydraulic fracturing to extract shale gas anywhere in the UK.

The senior Tory also argued that of the 27,000 wells fracked in the US, there was no evidence of groundwater contamination.

He said: "I support fracking in any area, including Kent, provided it is subject to proper scrutiny in each case by the planning system and regulators to ensure that it will be safe and the environment will be properly protected."

But members of local activist group East Kent Against Fracking told KoS they were ready to get in the way of any firm attempting to start work.

"We are working to make sure those who will be making the decisions on this subject understand what is involved in fracking. Because I don't think they do," said spokeswoman Rosemary Rechter.

"Chancellor George Osborne's idea of having streamlined regulations shows a gross lack of understanding of how complicated and potentially dangerous the procedure is.

"We have got people in the group who want to go and festoon the fences and set up a camp. Most of us feel there is no need just yet, but we are ready to mobilise."

She added: "The fact house prices have gone down by 30 per cent in Lancashire, and people can't get buildings insurance that covers any effects of fracking, is making people very nervous."

The group is building up a network ready to lobby MPs and councillors, but how well they will do in this Conservative heartland, where Tory MPs are beginning to show support for fracking, remains to be seen.

Conservative Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke said fracking could be a "huge opportunity" to reduce electricity bills and create jobs.

"It has great potential to cut energy bills, reduce fuel poverty and boost the economy," he said.

"However, it's very important it is safe and assurances are given that our water tables are not contaminated and there are no problems with ground stability."

Fellow Tory Mark Reckless, the member for Rochester and Strood, told us: "I support fracking and think we should push on with it as quickly as possible since it will boost the economy and bring down energy prices.

"Water-pollution risk in not high and any tremors that have taken place have been very small. Relatively few wells are necessary and once functioning will have limited impact on areas nearby."

Support was also given by the MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, Gordon Henderson (Con); Dartford MP Gareth Johnson (Con); and Thanet

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safety or drilling for the future?

North member Roger Gale (Con) – although all stressed the need for stringent safety measures.

Supporters of shale-gas extraction argue the UK needs to reduce dependency on unstable countries for oil.

It raises the question of whether the UK should be so reliant on other countries, held to ransom by increasing oil costs. And shouldn't we be looking at driving down energy bills?

However, should we really be sacrificing our land and safety to do so?

Some Labour members and, unsurprisingly perhaps, the Green Party, think not. Stuart Jeffery, from Maidstone Greens, warned that Mr Fallon's comments would mean Kent could expect many more planning applications for exploratory drilling.

"Fracking contaminates the groundwater by pumping millions of gallons of carcinogen-laden water in at high pressure, it causes earthquakes and it releases fossil fuels that increase climate change," he said.

"The increased interest in shale gas is down to this government's new tax breaks and it is clear that, once again, the Tories and Lib Dems have failed the country."

Fellow party member and Kent county councillor Martin Whybrow said more local protest groups would be set up in response to the interest in fracking.

"Here in Kent, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has licensed five companies to search for and extract oil or gas, which could include the use of fracking as a gas-extraction method," he said.

"KCC, the county's Mineral Planning Authority (MPA), has granted planning permission for two licence-holders, Cuadrilla and Coastal Oil and Gas, to conduct exploratory drilling.

"I will be asking KCC officers for further details about these applications and will be finding out if there are any more applications for drilling in the system."

Last year, Green Party MP Caroline Lucas tabled a parliamentary early day motion calling for a moratorium on fracking until an environmental impact assessment was produced.

It followed two earthquakes in Blackpool that were subsequently linked to shale-gas test drilling.

However, the ban was lifted when experts made an independent assessment that the risk from tremors was low and could be minimised.

Another review, carried out by the Royal Society and the Royal Academy of Engineering, gave fracking the nod, provided that strong regulations were in place.

And in what was another blow to protesters, earlier this year the Government unveiled incentives for communities that allow fracking to take place – as much as £100,000 for each well.

Fracking companies could also receive tax breaks.

It appears that the Government is fully on board with a fracking revolution.

Speaking to KoS, ironically at the opening of the London Array wind farm last month, Prime Minister David Cameron said the controversial method had to be explored.

"We have to recognise that a fracking revolution has taken place in the US and we ought to be thinking about it here," he told us.

"Recent reports have shown we may have twice as much shale gas as previously thought and so this is an industry we should be encouraging."

Nevertheless, campaigners in Kent are determined to make it as hard as possible for the fracking revolution to take off.

Mrs Rechter said: "Once people get engaged and start to find out the facts, their attitude towards fracking hardens."

Jamie Weir, spokesman for the county's branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, Protect Kent, also warned of the impact on water resources. Questions have been raised as to whether we have enough water to cater for a fracking future.

"Kent is an extremely water-stressed county, so the last thing we need is any kind of problem that affects our water resources," said Mr Weir.

• To read South East MEP Keith Taylor's comment on fracking, turn to page 32.

WHAT IS FRACKING?

Fracking is the process of extracting natural shale gas by blasting water and rock-dissolving fluids into the ground to break apart rocks and release the gas.

It is banned in South Africa and France but has taken off in the US.

So far only exploratory work has taken place, but fears are that it could lead to fracking.

The Government says it should be encouraged and will lead to less reliance on unstable countries for oil and lead to cheaper energy bills.

However, opponents say it increases greenhouse-gas emissions, contaminates water supplies, can make drinking water flammable and can cause earthquakes.

Questions have also been raised about whether we have enough water to cater for a fracking revolution in this county. Water is crucial in the fracking process, but Kent is already deemed a "water-stressed" county and just last year drought warnings were in place.

WHAT THE COMPANIES SAY

Cuadrilla has a licence to carry out exploratory drilling in Kent. It is currently carrying out test drilling in Balcombe, West Sussex.

On its website, it states "robust safety measures are in place" to ensure the environment is protected.

"Cuadrilla's wells are all designed with at least three layers of steel casing – the surface casing, the intermediate casing and the production casing.

"The intermediate casing ensures there can be no leakage path from the shale reservoir up to the aquifer. These are inspected by an independent well-examiner before being sent to the Health and Safety Executive for review."

Cuadrilla says that in the US – where fracking has taken off – only a "handful" of operations have led to the subsurface environment being contaminated with national gas. The company said this was down to bad well design rather than fracking.

But what about risk of earth tremors?

Caudrilla says it follows recommendations in reports into the matter and will be adopting a number of early-detection systems.

The firm stressed that it would also be engaging with residents and stakeholders before fracking took place at any of its sites.

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CONSERVATION

Picture: SAM BAYLIS

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Picture: SELWYN DAVIS

Festival's promise of a wild time

BACK TO NATURE: Now in its sixth year, the Festival of Wildlife offers people the chance to sample Kent's beautiful countryside and get closer to the wonderful and varied wildlife living in our county

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AS A county, Kent continues to come up trumps with its festival offerings.

Whether it's folk in Broadstairs, oysters in Whitstable or catching stars old and new at Lounge on the Farm in Canterbury, there's no denying the county's population is well served.

But there is another contender on the scene, offering something that's slightly different from the normal music or food delights.

And the stars of this show are not the kind you would find at your average festival.

Now in its sixth year, the Festival of Wildlife – the brainchild of Kent Wildlife Trust – shines a spotlight on the stunning wildlife and landscape we have in the Garden of England.

Initially meant to run just once, the event, held at Sevenoaks nature reserve, proved so popular that it has been returning year after year.

"It was originally devised as a one-off event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the formation of Kent Wildlife Trust in 2008," said Ray Lewis, events officer at the trust.

"However, it proved such a success it's been held annually ever since. The aim is to raise awareness and appreciation of the natural world, and in particular the incredible diversity and beauty of Kent's wildlife and landscape."

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Picture: ANDY VIDLER

Picture: IAN ANDREWS

Picture: R J SIMPSON

Picture: BECKY HITCHIN

proves big attraction

He says this year's free programme is packed with events designed to appeal to the entire family – as well as more knowledgeable naturalists.

This time it has got the support of leading BBC cameraman Richard Taylor-Jones.

The nature expert, who lives in Deal, has made wildlife films for Springwatch, Countryfile and The One Show.

He will be talking to visitors about the techniques and challenges of filming and festival-goers can watch wildlife footage, some of which was shot in this county.

The event will also include bug-hunting, guided walks and angling demonstrations. The Best of Kent stalls will be selling arts and crafts plus locally-sourced food.

Mr Lewis said: "Sevenoaks reserve is the perfect venue due to its variety of habitats: lakes, streams, woodland and wild gardens, but also because of its ease of access for wheelchairs and pushchairs."

Adding to the festive atmosphere will be live music, folk-dancing, a birdwatchers' cabaret, gardening tips and virtual whale-watching.

Mr Lewis said there would be opportunities to participate in creative, environmentally-aware workshops and demonstrations to help people learn more about the natural environment and wildlife of Kent.

A spokesman for the trust said: "We were formed in 1958 and are supported by more than 31,000 members and 1,000 registered volunteers.

"Our aim is to protect and improve habitats in the countryside, coast and town for the benefit of the wildlife and people of Kent."

The free festival is at Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve on the weekend of August 17-18 between 10am and 4pm. Visit www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk or phone 01622 662012 for details.

DEATH

Tragedy on railway

TRAIN services in east Kent came to a standstill after a man was hit by a train.

The incident happened at 1.35pm on Tuesday close to Chilham station.

A British Transport Police spokesman said the death was not being treated as suspicious.

It was the second tragedy on Kent's railway that day, after the body of a man was found on tracks near Maidstone East.

BTP said the victim had been electrocuted by the live rail. The death is not suspicious.

ILLEGAL TRADING

Knives sold to children

A TRADING Standards sting in Medway has revealed four out of 10 shops to be selling knives to children.

Under-age volunteers, accompanied by Trading Standards Officers, visited 10 premises in an attempt to buy knives. Four shops are now under investigation and face formal action.

LIFEBOAT

Nine-hour sea rescue

MARGATE lifeboat crew helped a stricken yacht after its propeller became caught in fishing nets in what ended up being a nine-hour operation.

The yacht was 40 miles north-east of Margate and its occupants were suffering from seasickness.

Lifeboat members could not untangle the propeller and so towed the yacht to shore.

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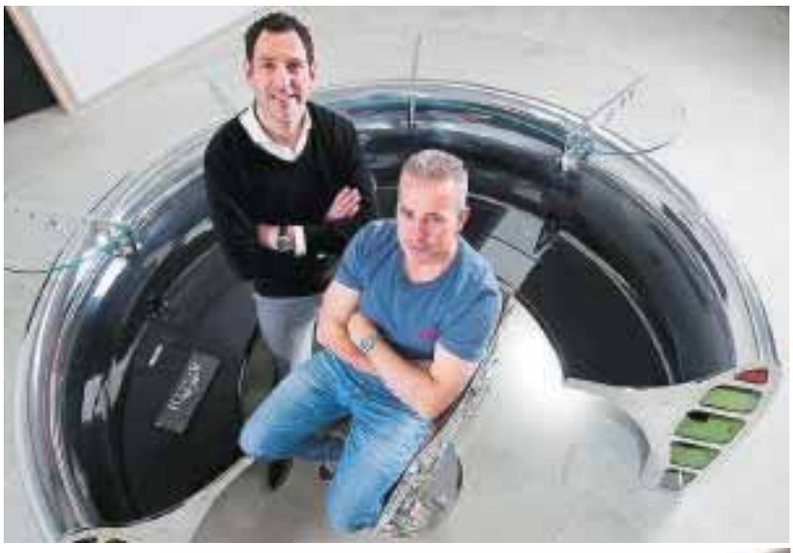

DESIGN

Brothers salvage the tools that let your imagination take flight

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

THE childhood dream of possessing your own ejector seat can now be a reality after two brothers from Kent opened a rather special business.

Hangar 54 was created by Brett and Shane Armstrong, who specialise in taking unusual aviation-related objects and turning them into pieces of artwork and furniture.

Some of the items in their collection include the fuselage from a Boeing 737 that has been polished and transformed into a time-zone wall-clock; a Second World War bomb transformed into a coffee table; and a 1968 Corsair belly tank, imported from Washington and converted into a red leather sofa.

The company, which is based in Marden, combines Shane's background in design and engineering high-end joinery with his brother's sales and recruitment history, is already attracting global interest.

It all started in June 2011, when Shane saw a desk made from a piece of salvaged plane engine, inspiring him to create Hangar 54.

"I fell in love with the concept and the potential these often-disregarded pieces have," said Shane. "It's been two years in the making, but I now feel we've created a British-made collection to be proud of."

With Martin-Baker ejector seats as bar stools and plane cowlings as reception desks or drinks bars, it's no surprise that Hangar 54 has pulled in some high-profile shoppers.

"They are all pretty strange – taking a spare fuel tank and converting it into a sofa is pretty out there, I would say," said Brett. "But they are beautiful works of art, and making a salvaged 747 engine cowling into a reception desk is a unique way to earn a living.

"We've had to sign an agreement not to name anyone, but we've recently had a piece bought by a major film company. It was used in the dressing room of a famous actor.

"That was really exciting and great exposure for us."

Brett manages sales and is responsible for finding the raw materials used within the collection, while Shane takes care of the design and manufacturing side of the business.

Brett said: "There isn't one set place where we find our materials. That's the beauty and enjoyment of the chase. The internet and salvage or breakers' yards are fruitful. But it comes from anywhere and everywhere.

"We were contacted by a gentleman only last month who has been collecting ejector seats for 15 years. In these tough economic times he needed to recoup some money. These are the calls I particularly enjoy – we're in negotiation to buy them all. I already have customers in mind."

TALENTED: Brett and Shane Armstrong design and sell unique furniture crafted from aviation-related items

Some of the larger pieces are sold for upwards of £20,000, with the rarer and more iconic materials used in the process adding to their value.

Brett, who began in business selling football memorabilia aged 19, said: "The price reflects the rarity and uniqueness of the items we sell.

"Every item from the collection is sold with its own unique 'log book' which contains an individual serial number and signed letter of authenticity. The book also documents the timeline and process used to complete the piece."

The specialist pieces are refined down to the very last detail, something the brothers pride themselves on: "Our collection is often bought by large corporations who want to create a lasting impression and a wow factor.

"But we also sell to interior designers and individuals, people who are looking for distinctive designs or something unique that creates a point of conversation."

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COMMENT

It's simple: harassment and threats are crimes

Police and Crime Commissioner **Ann Barnes** calls for action against the cowardly cyber-bullies

IS IT me, or are so many people missing a fundamental truth with the internet and all that goes with it – the websites and social-networking phenomena of the likes of Twitter and Facebook?

I'm referring to the recent controversy about the cruel online bullying and threatening behaviour directed at a number of people.

The fundamental truth is that it's a crime to harass or threaten someone. Plain and simple. The way that the harassment and threats are delivered is not relevant. If someone threatens by letter, phone or even by shouting in the street, they're committing a crime.

It's the same on Twitter. The advent of the internet has not altered our responsibilities as people. Yes, it's given us all so many more opportunities to interact and communicate, but we are still people with all the responsibility that goes with that.

I was horrified to read of the death of 14-year-old Hannah Smith, who was a victim of online bullying. I'm staggered that this poor girl felt she had to end her life as a result of horrible, grotesque online abuse. It is bullying at the lowest degree, hiding behind a computer screen or tablet to post cruel and hurtful messages.

The internet is a fantastic tool that allows you to access all the information you could dream about at the touch of a button.

However, it is also a danger to the young and vulnerable. We need the resources and the will to enforce existing laws.

Hannah Smith was a typical carefree schoolgirl whose life tragically ended due to constant horrible comments and abuse by strangers.

The website Ask FM, where the comments were posted, has been in the headlines over the last few days as it has been linked with other suicide attempts by young people. I cannot believe that we are unable to enforce the relevant laws across such sites and stop this from happening.

There are calls for the Prime Minister to now step in and close the site, with which I agree. We need to protect our young people.

But as well as 'enforcement', one of the best ways is to make it socially unacceptable to be seen to be engaging in this offensive behaviour. Every family and school should teach young people that bullying online is just as unacceptable as bullying face to face.

Only the other week I was disgusted by 'trolling' on Twitter, particularly targeting women.

If you're on Twitter, then part of your life is quite literally lived online, but this is no green light for abuse.

Every human being should be treated with respect. Women are no different.

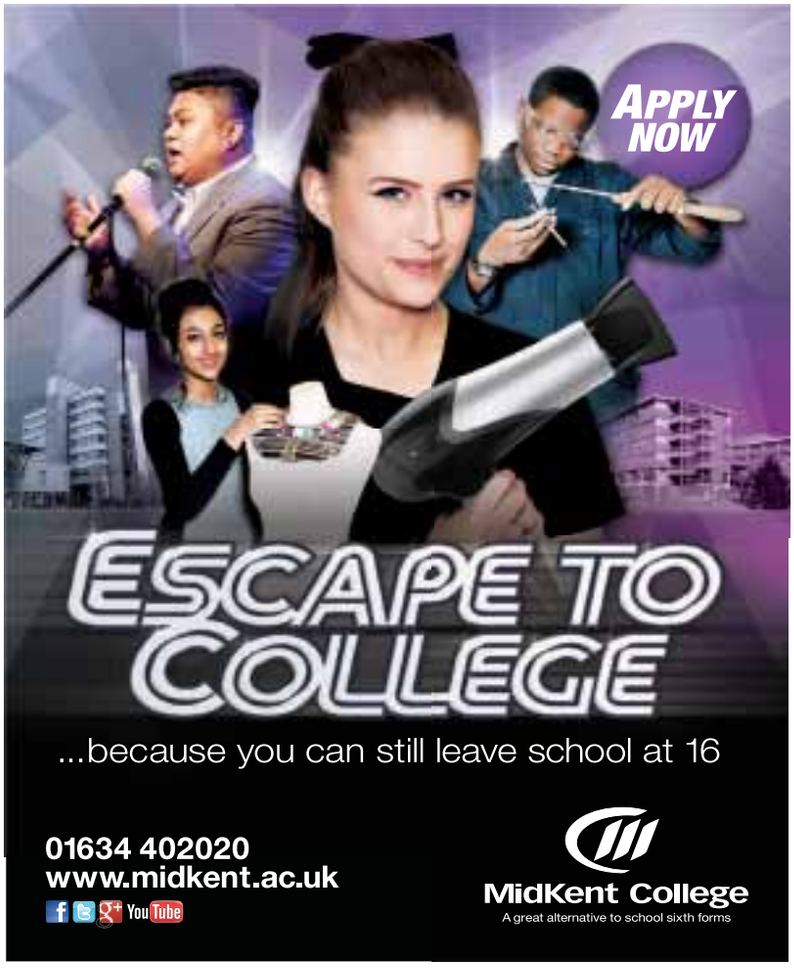
Labour MP Stella Creasy and campaigner Caroline Criado-Perez were both subject to vile comments and rape threats by strangers. And all because of a campaign to put Jane Austen's image on the new £10 note.

I really hope Twitter proceeds with the in-tweet abuse button and puts an end to such inhuman behaviour.

Best wishes,
Ann

your Kent Police and Crime Commissioner

■ Have you got an opinion on this matter? Get involved in the debate and share your comments on our letters page. Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or write to The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS.



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STARRING ROLE: Jude Law, left, and Richard E Grant in Dom Hemingway, the latest film to be shot in Kent

ENTERTAINMENT

Dedicated team credited with getting county film exposure

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

AS CHANNEL Four drama Southcliffe, filmed in Faversham, continues to divide opinion, Kent's scenery is due to play a starring role in two new films.

Due for release in 2014, Dom Hemingway is about an infamous safecracker. It stars Emilia Clarke (Game of Thrones) and heartthrob Jude Law and will feature the Kent countyside.

Further, Ron Howard, director of Apollo 13 and The Da Vinci Code, chose the county as a location for his new film Rush, a biopic on former Austrian Formula One champion Niki Lauda.

Kent Film Office told KoS that the last financial year had been its best ever, with film and TV productions boosting the county's economy by an estimated £7.3 million – and at the same time putting the county in front of a worldwide audience.

However, it's not just the big screen.

Filming has been completed for Sky Atlantic's new drama The Tunnel and new TV comedy series Big Bad World starring Blake Harrison from The Inbetweeners.

Gabrielle Lindemann, from Kent Film Office, also revealed that the County Hall-based team was helping facilitate a new sitcom set in the county.

"A couple of other features are also in the process of being locked down," she added.

"We can't say too much about them at the moment because providing production companies with a discreet and practical working environment is crucial in securing their continued business."

Mrs Lindemann believes that having a team dedicated to bringing in new productions gives Kent a distinct advantage over other counties.

"At the Kent County Council Film Office, we understand that location filming will always be script-led," she said.

"But having a film office provides Kent with a unique tool to promote its locations and offer production companies a bespoke service which makes filming in the county more attractive for them by reducing risk.

"We can also liaise on companies' behalf with other local authorities – Kent Highway Services, Kent Police and other such organisations – resolving issues such as finding parking spaces for the not-inconsiderable amount of equipment that they often bring."

Mrs Lindemann believes it's thanks to blockbusters like Sherlock Holmes and Les Misérables using the county that word of mouth has spread.

"Production companies prefer to take their business to a tried and trusted partner, so we get quite a bit of repeat business. We try to ease their way so they can concentrate on being creative and don't get bogged down by bureaucracy."

Kent has proved its worth as a popular destination in the past couple of years with Brad Pitt's World War Z, Trance, Henry V, The Poison Tree, Call The Midwife and Mr Selfridge all being shot here.

Harry Hill The Movie and The Muppets – Again! are recent others adding to the list.

KCC's community services member, Mike Hill, said: "Kent has a fantastic range of locations to offer – historic, picturesque countryside, wonderful beaches, market towns and bustling high streets.

"Our film office does an excellent job in assisting TV and film companies who are always looking for interesting and suitable locations."

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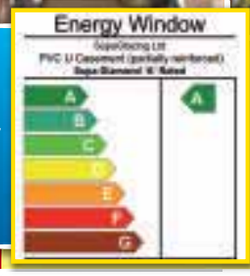

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PUBLIC AWARENESS

RNLI launches campaign to warn swimmers about the hidden dangers of the sea

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WITH thousands decending on Kent's beaches to enjoy the fine weather, the RNLI is launching a campaign to warn people of the dangers of the sea.

The lifeboat charity fears a big rise in rescues due to the prolonged hot temperatures.

In 2011, the latest figures available, the service carried out 378 rescues in the county... during a summer with poor weather.

Of those saved, 96 were in Sheppey, primarily from powered vessels such as speedboats and jet-skis.

There were 33 rescues across all Kent's waters from manual pleasure craft and 118 from sailing boats.

Littlestone-on-Sea appeared to be the safest area, with just 11 call-outs.

The RNLI is now launching its Respect the Water campaign in a bid to highlight the dangers of swimming in the sea.

While not wanting to dissuade beachgoers from enjoying a bathe, the charity aims to teach people how to avoid getting into trouble.

An RNLI spokesman said: "At this time of year it seems almost every day is a danger day unless simple precautions are taken.

"During heatwaves, particularly during school-holiday time, incidents do go up."

Respect the Water looks to reduce the number of incidents and fatalities around the coastline.

An average of 150 people die around the UK's coasts each year, which is more than those killed in cycling accidents.

But this year has already seen more than 200 deaths in UK waters, many of them during last month's heatwave.

It seems men aged between 25-65 are the most careless, with male deaths outnumbering female six to one.

Key causes of coastal drownings are rip currents, cold-water shock, slips, trips and falls, alcohol and fatigue.

Cold-water shock can occur at anything below 15ºC – the average sea temperature in this country is a mere 12ºC.

The RNLI says that while it realises people want to have fun when they visit the coast, even the most experienced seaside visitors can get into trouble.

Ross Macleod, RNLI coastal-safety manager, said: "The seaside is so popular – especially in the good weather we've been enjoying recently – but it's crucial to stay safe and remember key safety advice so you can enjoy it properly.

"That's why we have launched the Respect the Water campaign – to raise awareness of drowning and water safety, ultimately reducing the number of people who lose their lives at the coast."

The Respect the Water Punchbag Challenge, in which people can see how quickly they tire against 250kg of water, will be in Margate from Sunday to Saturday, August 25-31.

TOP TIPS TO STAY SAFE AT THE SEASIDE

- Choose a lifeguarded beach and swim between the red and yellow flags. Thanet and Swale have RNLI lifeguards on their beaches.
- Despite warm air temperatures, the water is still cold, so acclimatise gradually in shallow water.
- Cold water can drain body heat very quickly, so wear suitable thermal protection; a wetsuit also provides additional buoyancy.
- Never swim in the sea alone.
- Don't over-estimate your ability – the sea is very different to a pool. Even the strongest and most competent swimmers can tire quickly in the sea.
- Don't swim too far out of your depth.
- If you get caught in a rip current, don't panic. Don't try to swim against it or you'll get exhausted. If you can stand, wade – don't swim. If you can, swim parallel to the shore until free of the rip and then head for shore; raise your hand and shout for help.
- When at the coast, stay away from the edge of cliffs, stick to marked pathways and read safety signage.
- Alcohol and water don't mix – don't drink and drown. If you want a drink, do it after swimming, not before.

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AVIATION

No hub but Manston and Lydd could play a part, says commission chief

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

LYDD and Manston could play a role in expanding airport capacity in the South East but are "highly unlikely" to be developed into major hubs.

The message has come from Sir Howard Davies, who is leading the commission looking into how the country will cope with an estimated rise in passenger numbers from the present 180 million to 294m by 2050.

He told the BBC: "I think that, bluntly, it's highly unlikely that either of those [Lydd or Manston] would be a candidate for the major hub airport of the sort we've been discussing."

He did, though, say that "quite a lot of imagination" had been put into the question of how existing traffic, "perhaps particularly the business aviation – that's the private-planes traffic", could be distributed.

Last week, Manston bosses revealed their submission to the commission, which included the suggestion of becoming a 'reliever airport'.

They believe the Thanet operation could cope with up to 10m passengers a year by 2033 and up to 16m passengers and one million tonnes of freight by 2050.

This would be achieved by taking low-cost passenger and freight traffic from the region's airports and providing a maintenance, repair and overhaul service for the South East.

PLANS: Charles Buchanan says Manston airport could handle up to 16 million passengers by 2050

Sir Howard said: "One does need to look at the role these smaller airports can play in the total picture, but, frankly, I don't think we are going to see four runways at Lydd."

He said the commission was "taking a balanced approach to looking at things that were buildable" and that, while a hub airport was likely to be needed, its location depended on "where [aviation] growth in the future was likely to come".

Sir Howard has a list of proposals on the table, including six for the Thames estuary.

A short-list of the more favoured ideas will be published before the end of the year, but a final decision will not be made until 2015 – after the next general election.

Charles Buchanan, chief executive of Manston airport, told KoS: "We have always acknowledged Manston would never be the new hub airport for London and the South East.

"However, we strongly believe it could be a successful regional passenger and freight airport, which could provide critical additional capacity and relief now to the region's already-congested airport network.

"I was pleased to hear Sir Howard acknowledge that smaller airports, such as Manston, have a role to play and the proposals submitted to his commission have been 'imaginative and thoughtful' in how to increase airport capacity in the South East."

DRUGS

Police warning after cannabis plants found

A 43-year-old man has been jailed for almost three years after detectives uncovered two cannabis factories with a total of more than 100 plants in Gravesend.

Ian Edward McLaren, of Cambridge Street, Pimlico, admitted cultivating cannabis, abstracting electricity and possessing a weapon for the discharge of noxious liquid or gas.

Investigating officer DC Roger Harris said: "McLaren's sentence should send a clear message to others who carry out these activities: we will find you, charge you, take you to court and you may well end up in jail."

POLICE

More than 100 arrests in violent-crime blitz

THE county's police force is continuing its summer blitz on violent crime, making a further 138 arrests in the latest operation.

Using the force's predictive-policing data, officers patrolled the county's town centres, where historically violent crime has been an issue.

Ass Ch Con Rob Price said: "Summer months traditionally show an increase in violence on the streets and our officers are being placed around the county to arrest anyone who carries out this type of offence. It only takes a second to stop and think. Walk away from confrontation."

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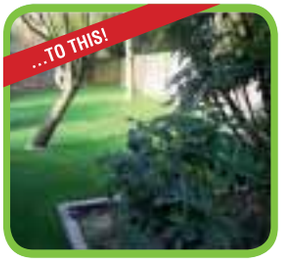

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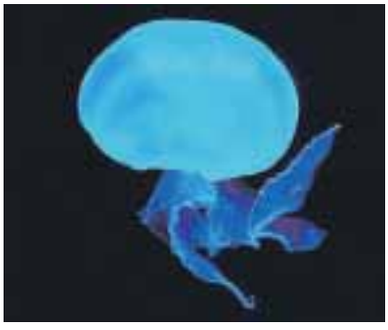
MARINE

STING IN THE TAIL: Sightings of moon, left, compass, below right, and blue jellyfish have been made off the Kent coast



Jellyfish invasion seen as good barometer for our weather... and seas

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WITH the heatwave still here and some of the country's best beaches on our doorstep, it is hardly surprising that the Kent coast has been teeming with holidaymakers in recent weeks.

However, it seems that we are not the only ones enjoying the refreshing charms of the sea.

Statistics from the Marine Conservation Society show that jellyfish are arriving at our shores in high numbers due to the hot spell.

Thankfully, most of the species sighted off Kent have been largely harmless, except for one that can give an irritating and sometimes painful sting.

So far, in the late spring and summer of 2013, there have been sightings of blue, compass and moon jellyfish. It is the compass form that can deliver an annoying sting.

Happily, however, dangerous forms such as the Portuguese man-of-war and mauve stingers have not been seen floating off our coast.

According to marine experts, the jellyfish are being drawn in largely because of the hot weather, although there are other factors.

"There is some evidence jellyfish numbers are increasing in places around the world, including UK seas, although some scientists argue jellyfish numbers increase and then decrease normally every 20 years or so," said Dr Peter Richardson, MCS biodiversity programme manager and jellyfish expert.

"However, others believe these increases are linked to factors such as pollution, over-fishing and possibly climate change. I think that we should consider jellyfish populations as important indicators of the state of our seas, and the MCS jellyfish survey helps provide some of the information we need to understand more about them."

The MCS is asking the public to report unusual sightings and has recorded a big rise in the number of types of jellyfish around the country's south coast.

A spokesman said: "Kent sees a significant number of jellyfish every year."

Growing numbers of jellyfish means that the chances of bathers having an encounter with the floating creatures is increasingly likely.

And medical experts are warning people not to rely on the age-old urine treatment to help should they be stung.

"A sting from a jellyfish can be extremely painful, but trying to treat it with urine isn't going to make your day any better," said Joe Mulligan, British Red Cross's head of first aid.

"Urine just doesn't have the right chemical make-up to solve the problem."

He said it was better and easier to simply use seawater, adding: "If people have been stung, they need to get out of the water to avoid getting stung again. Once out, slowly pouring seawater over the sting will help ease the pain.

"Doing the same thing with vinegar can be even more effective as the acid helps neutralise the jellyfish sting. But, unless you're near a chip shop, seawater will probably be easier to find."

■ **Join in the MCS jellyfish survey at http://bit.ly/raGWcL**

PETS

Unwanted cats stretching welfare charity to the limit

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT is in danger of becoming overrun by unwanted cats as households continue to struggle to meet pet bills.

With the economy still struggling to get on its feet, many families are finding it hard to cope with another mouth to feed and high veterinary costs to settle.

A rapidly-moving rental market is also leading to cats simply being left behind, essentially dumped, as owners move on to another property.

The RSPCA in Kent is full to capacity with more than 350 unwanted felines clogging the system.

The charity is urging owners to ensure their cat is spayed or neutered in a bid to cut the ever-growing population.

An increase in feral cats is also a concern as the once-domestic animals turn wild in a bid to survive, scavenging food where they can.

The RSPCA says that it has reached crisis point. It needs to find temporary foster homes to help relieve the over-crowding in its catteries at Ashford, Bromley, Canterbury, Thanet, Leybourne, Medway, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Headcorn and Sittingbourne.

Only recently, two boxes of kittens were ditched separately at the Ashford cattery door.

At Woodchurch, a car slowed as it passed the cattery and three animals were thrown out.

An RSPCA spokesman said these branches had run out of space to care for abandoned or sick cats.

Staff say they cannot remember a worst crisis for the cat population.

RSPCA branch support specialist Becky Blackmore said: "Broadly, the problem is that irresponsible and accidental breeding of cats is leading to our rehoming centres being full of kittens, growing into young cats, without sufficient homes being available.

"At the beginning of July in Kent, the RSPCA had 311 cats and kittens in their care, with a further 60 at our Leybourne animal centre.

"Some of the branches run their own rehoming centres, but others have to keep cats in private boarding facilities or fostering facilities and rehome them from there. Money has to be raised locally to make all this possible.

"Our RSPCA branches are run by volunteers and they are often on the receiving end of frustration when the public ask us to take on their unwanted cats.

HELP! The RSPCA has cats of all ages who need a new home

"We never put a cat to sleep if it can be rehomed. However, resources are now so stretched we need the public to support us to ensure we can continue to provide this service.

"For example, hundreds of cats involved in road accidents each year remain unclaimed at vets. Often the RSPCA has to spend hundreds of pounds on vet bills to get them fit to be rehomed, but costs have escalated to such a degree that branches cannot meet the growing demand without more support. We are calling on the public to ensure their cats are neutered."

The RSPCA said the Canterbury branch recently took on a litter of kittens to hand-rear when they were only a day old.

This meant staff giving two hourly feeds 24 hours a day. The owner hadn't got their cat neutered in time and so she ended up pregnant while still under six months herself and needed a Caesarean, costing hundreds of pounds.

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HEALTH CARE

Most vulnerable put at risk by decision to move mental-health service, says council

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

COUNCIL chiefs in Medway have raised concerns over the decision to shut acute mental-health services and relocate them elsewhere in Kent, warning it will put vulnerable people at risk.

Kent and Medway NHS joint overview and scrutiny committee last week agreed to close the ageing A-block at Medway Maritime Hospital in Gillingham, with in-patient provision instead being increased at Canterbury, Dartford and Maidstone, and investment in community services.

While bosses at Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT) welcomed the approval, stating that "rigorous checks" had been carried out to ensure the remaining three units could cope with increased demand, Medway Council has expressed concern.

This is despite A-block being described as "very poor in design and location". A public consultation into services was carried out last year.

Councillor Wendy Purdy, lead on the NHS committee at Medway, warned that closure of acute mental-health services could place vulnerable people at risk.

"Medway needs local in-patient services, and across Kent and Medway all the indications are we need more, not less, beds.

TOUGH CALL: Kent and Medway NHS has agreed to close the A-block at Medway Maritime Hospital

"This is a matter of serious concern," she said. "While we welcome investment in community mental-health services, the reality is that at the moment many people are having to be admitted to mental-health beds far away from Medway, at great human cost to them and their families, and at significant financial cost to the NHS locally. It would be more sensible for NHS managers to commission sufficient bed capacity in Medway to meet our local needs."

The matter is due to be considered by Medway's health and adult social care overview and scrutiny committee on Tuesday, August 20.

It might then be referred to the secretary of state if members do not think there is sufficient capacity locally.

Cllr Purdy said: "I am calling on NHS managers in Medway to get round the table to see how we can ensure vulnerable people with mental-health needs in Medway are provided with the critical services they need and deserve.

"It is not acceptable that the people of Medway, with our growing population and local need, are left without in-patient services."

NHS bosses say the new provision – expected to be rolled out over the next 12 months – would see an increased number of acute beds and three centres of excellence developed in Dartford, Canterbury and Maidstone.

A focus is being placed on community services and investment in developing crisis resolution and home treatment to avoid unnecessary admission to hospital.

Dr Karen White, KMPT medical director, said: "It's an opportunity for us to strengthen community services for people in mental-health crisis, supporting more care at home, which is what most people want, and to deliver care in modern accommodation which has been designed to meet the needs of service-users and staff."

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EMPLOYMENT

Dame Kelly and friends put trust in youth

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

IT'S been almost a decade since Dame Kelly Holmes crossed the finish line in Greece to clinch her second gold medal of the 2004 Athens Games.

The 1,500-metre and 800m champion became a national hero overnight, to be honoured as a Dame of the British Empire and hailed as an inspiration to future generations.

She has since gone on to be president of Commonwealth Games England, as well as Kent Olympic Ambassador.

However, it's her charity work that is being celebrated this month as the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust reaches its fifth anniversary.

Set up in 2008, the charity helps disadvantaged youngsters start their careers, using retired world-class athletes to help inspire them, getting them ready for the working world.

So far, more than 100,000 young people have been helped by the trust.

Four-time British taekwondo champion Romaine Bailey is working with Thanet teenagers to help them focus on their future.

The 24-year-old told KoS: "As athletes we can use our experience to help people because there are highs and lows in our lives as well.

"We try to express to young people that no matter what you have come through, not to let it knock you back. You have to keep focused."

Mr Bailey and the trust recruit young people from Jobcentres in Margate and Ramsgate as well as youth clubs.

"We get an outside partner to come in and get them comfortable with each other because this is their family for the next two months.

"Then we teach them life skills and interview techniques and find out what they want to do in life and what they want to get out of the project."

The team also works with Jobcentre staff to secure job interviews for the teenagers as well as take them to both a secondary and a disability school to get them coaching sport.

Mr Bailey said: "We just try to build them as individuals. We try to identify that they do have something to offer."

So far, 71 per cent of the young people who were referred via the Jobcentre were in education, employment, volunteering or training by the end of the programme.

Dame Kelly said it was making a positive impact: "Olympians, Paralympians and retired athletes have experienced the highs and lows of world-class competition and know what it's like to overcome adversity and have the will to succeed.

"Passing this on to younger generations is the greatest legacy sport can achieve."

SUPPORTING: Kelly Holmes and Romaine Bailey

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HEALTH CARE

Don't be afraid of hearing-aids, says television's Doctor Hilary as he joins awareness campaign

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

FROM spotting the tell-tale signs of anorexia to analysing a footballer claiming to have sex addiction, Dr Hilary Jones has seen it all from the many sofas of morning TV he has graced over the past two decades.

Having spent time working as the in-house consultant for TVAM, GMTV and, more recently, Daybreak, Dr Jones has become one of the most recognisable faces on daytime television.

And now the Kent-based practitioner is focusing on his home county and backing a country-wide campaign to raise awareness of hearing damage.

The celebrity specialist believes there could be as many as 97,000 people in Kent with undiagnosed hearing loss and is hoping to tackle the taboo subject of hearing-aids.

"Just from the work I do in seeing patients, I know I often have to repeat myself because the patient cannot hear me properly," he said.

"Acknowledging deterioration of hearing and its impact on quality of life is the first step. The ultimate consequence of an undiagnosed and untreated hearing problem is social isolation."

Dr Jones said many people may not know they had hearing damage or might be too embarrassed to get help, afraid of having to wear a hearing-aid.

SAFE HANDS: Kent-based Dr Hilary Jones, right, is involved in September's Hearing Awareness Month

The doctor, who still has practices in London and Hampshire, said: "Having a hearing-aid is not the same as it used to be.

"They are not the beige banana things you have behind your ear any more. The technology we have now means you can barely even see it.

"You can tell people who are hard of hearing much easier than someone who has a hearing-aid these days."

A 'hidden hearing' session is being held in seven Kent town centres, including Tunbridge Wells, Canterbury, Margate, Maidstone and Bromley during September as part of Hearing Awareness Month – and Dr Jones will be making a few surprise visits to talk to patients and offer free tests.

Having qualified in 1976 at the Royal Free Hospital, London, after six years of study, Dr Jones has had a varied career, including a stint as the medical officer on Tristan da Cunha, the most isolated inhabited island in the world.

In 1981 he worked as a troubleshooting GP and emergency doctor for the oil industry at Sullom Voe in Shetland for offshore medical support before the media came calling. He began presenting educational medical programmes for British Medical TV in 1986; Sky TV later adopted these for its news bulletins.

But it was in 1989 that he got his big break, joining the successful breakfast station TVAM.

"One day I just wrote a letter and told them I had a few ideas for their show. They invited me in and offered me a two-week trial," he said.

"It worked well and they gave me a contract at the end of it. It was as simple as that – I'm a firm believer in if you don't ask you don't get."

He has also had a column in the News Of The World and starred in reality show Dancing On Ice. However, he says that being in the public eye is not his primary motivation.

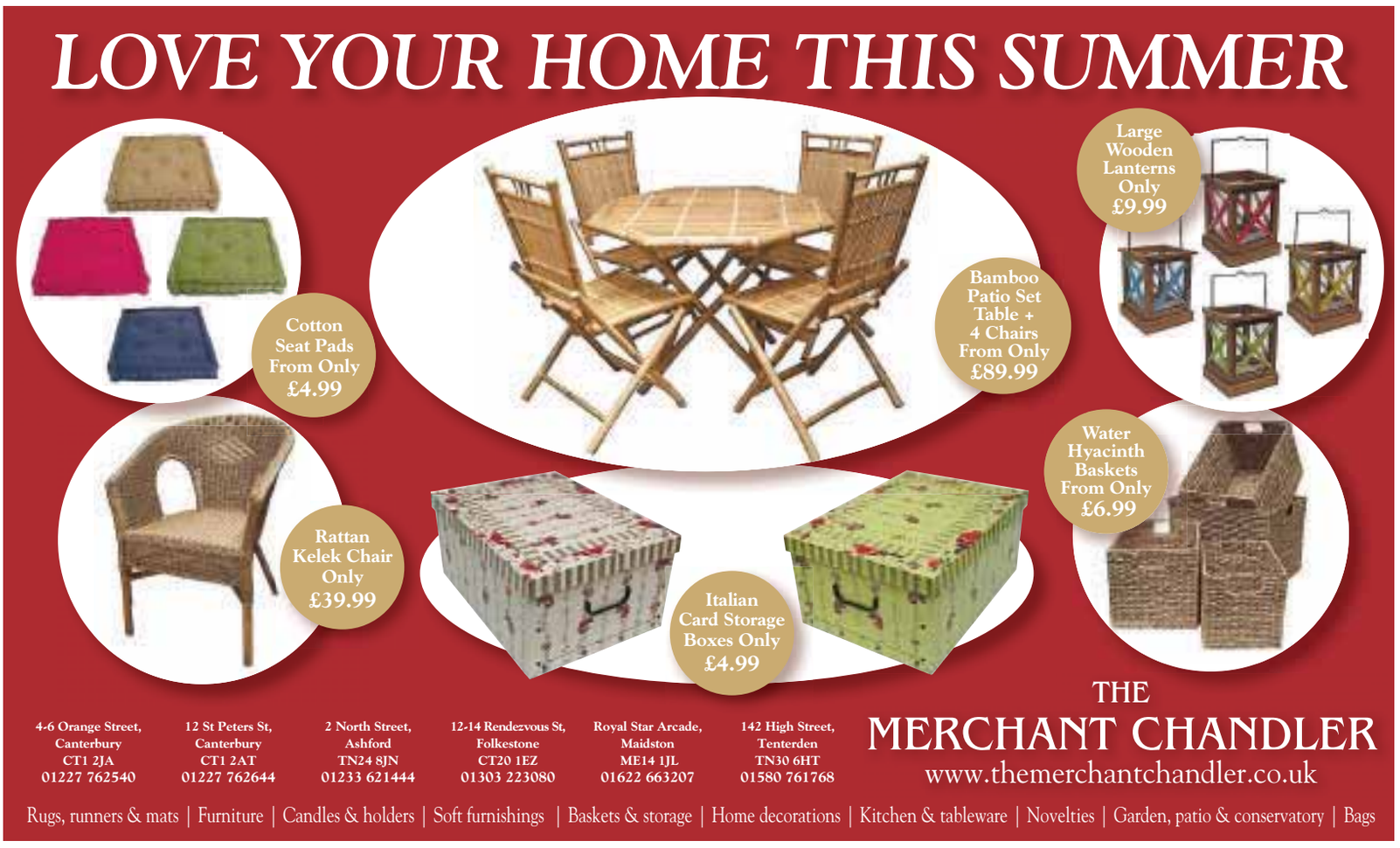
"I have never really classed myself as a celebrity – I just take part in broadcasting. I have balanced broadcasting and my practices for many years and it's a balance that works really well."

Dr Jones has also released his latest book, A Day In Your Life: 24 Hours Inside The Human Body, which currently holds sixth place in the best-seller charts for non-fiction.

He said: "The book is about what happens inside you from the moment you wake until the moment you go back to sleep and have dreams.

"It's from the point of view of a family, so it's a bit different and has had a good response so far."

To book your free hearing test, call 0800 037 2060 or visit hearingawarenessmonth.co.uk.



REGENERATION

The shocking state of a once-thriving resort

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

GRIM findings of extreme social problems in the former tourist hot-spot of Margate have sparked hope that the Government will note its plight.

Poverty, high unemployment, mental-health issues and children dumped in the care system are just a few of a long list of concerns highlighted in a new report, Turning the Tide, by think-tank the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ), looking at social problems in coastal resorts.

In fact, so badly did Margate fare that it was compared to some of the UK's most deprived inner-city areas.

However, from the grey outlook comes a possible ray of light.

A call has been made for efforts to be "ramped up" to help the seaside town, which was one of five examined by the CSJ. The others were Rhyl, Clacton-on-Sea, Great Yarmouth and Blackpool. Together, the five towns' total working-age benefits bill is almost £2 billion.

The report stated that the road to Margate's regeneration was long and there was "no quick fix", but it stressed there were "dedicated people in education, local government and the community who are working hard to help revive the town".

"There must be a continued and concerted effort to regenerate housing, drive up skills and improve neighbourhoods," the report stated.

Margate's demise can be traced back to the 1970s and the start of foreign package holidays, taking tourism away from the British seaside and hitting what was a large source of income.

Local spending dropped, the economy faltered and house prices also started to reduce dramatically.

London boroughs bought up cheap housing and placed problem families and children in care, something authorities in Kent have struggled to stop. Combine that with released prisoners and large numbers of recently-arrived immigrants, both legal and illegal, and it's a clear recipe for difficulties.

Jenny Whittle is cabinet member for specialist children's services at Kent County Council. She said she was pleased the Government finally seemed to be waking up to the problem, which could prompt a healthy rejuvenation of the town.

Cllr Whittle said a major problem was Looked After Children (LAC) being dumped there.

However, there is fresh hope the practice may be reduced, if not ended completely.

The CSJ – launched by work and pensions secretary Iain Duncan Smith – says Margate is suffering "severe social breakdown" and the practice of moving vulnerable children to the town is "perpetuating the cycle".

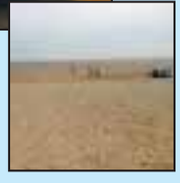
CSJ director Christian Guy said: "Some of these areas have been left behind. We must ramp up efforts to revive Britain's coastal towns, not just for visitors but for residents, too."

"Finally, it seems the Government is realising the problem and London boroughs are being told to re-open children's homes so they can be taken care of there. Councils do need to take responsibility for their own."

The report says coastal towns have become "dumping grounds for groups such as care leavers, people with substance-abuse problems, those with mental-health issues and ex-offenders".

Thanet North MP Roger Gale told KoS that he was encouraged by the direction the town was now heading, with the Turner Contemporary and a new boutique hotel.

"I think Margate's prospects are reasonably good, but I am not pretending we can be complacent. I think it's on the up."



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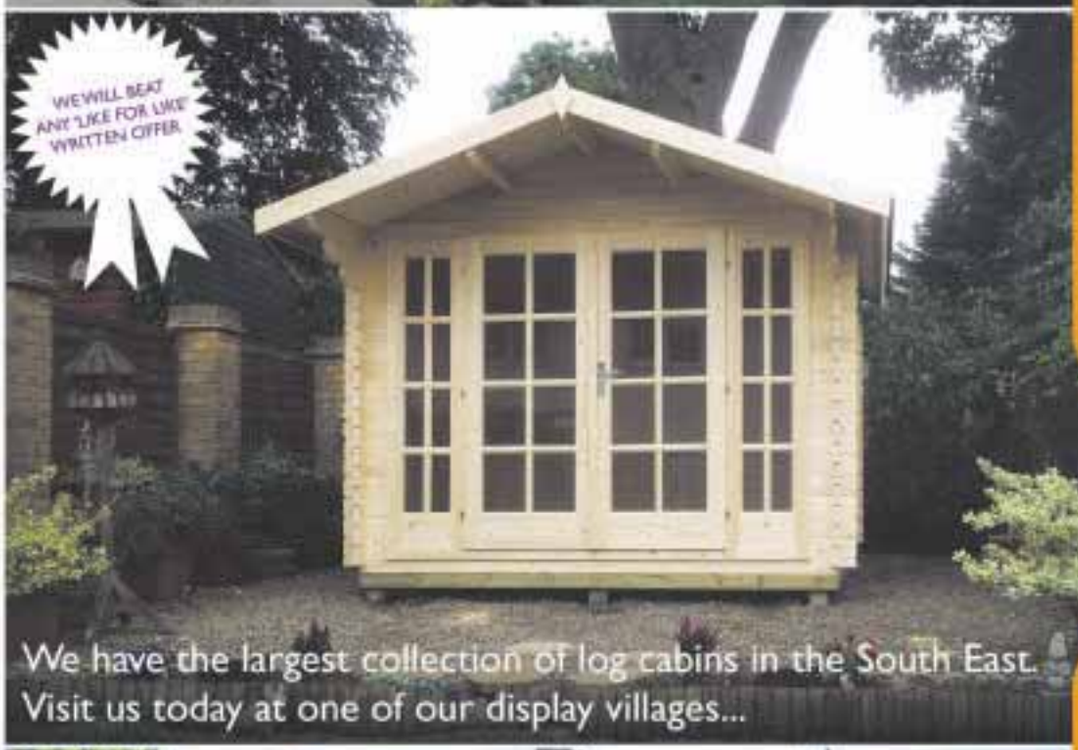

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

STARTING BLOCK: The Invicta monument at Swanscombe relates how Men of Kent and Kentish Men united with 'boughs on their shoulders' to see off the unwanted attentions of William the Conqueror

Man of Kent or Kentish Man? It's not so easy...

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

IT'S one of the recurring questions related to our county's great history and those who live here: are you a Man of Kent or a Kentish Man?

The precise definition remains open to debate even now – and this has been one long disagreement, considering that the terms were believed to have been founded more than 1,500 years ago.

According to tradition, the first Men and Maids of Kent hailed from a Germanic tribe called the Jutes who settled in the east of the county, while the Kentish Men and Maids were of Saxon origin and had settled in the west of the county.

The standard way to tell which category you fell into has been according to which side of the River Medway you were born.

If you originated from the south and east of the river, you were a Man of Kent. Those who believe that they are of that lineage tell tales to set themselves apart from their counterparts on the other side of the Medway.

In 1067, it is told, the Men of Kent showed their fighting spirit by warding off William the Conqueror and winning a peace settlement from the new king allowing them certain traditional rights.

Meanwhile, the Kentish Men were said to have simply surrendered.

The story still holds sway today, although a monument in the churchyard of Saint Peter and Saint Paul's Church in Swanscombe tells a slightly different version, suggesting that it was men from both sides of the Medway who fought off William, who also carried the title of Duke of Normandy.

It is claimed that the county motto Invicta originated from this tale.

The plaque reads: "Near this spot in 1067, by tradition the Men of Kent and the Kentish Men, carrying boughs on their shoulders and swords in their hands, met the invader William Duke of Normandy.

"They offered peace if he would grant their ancient rights and liberties, otherwise war and that most deadly.

"Their request was granted, and from that day the motto of Kent has been 'Invicta', meaning unconquered."

Other less popular theories behind the Kentish divide include that of the 19th-century author Charles Henry Fielding, who is said to have defined a Man of Kent as someone born between the River Stour in Canterbury and the sea, with all others being Kentish Men.

Other explanations include the suggestion that a Kentish Man was born in Kent but not of Kentish parents, but a Man of Kent was born in Kent to Kentish parents.

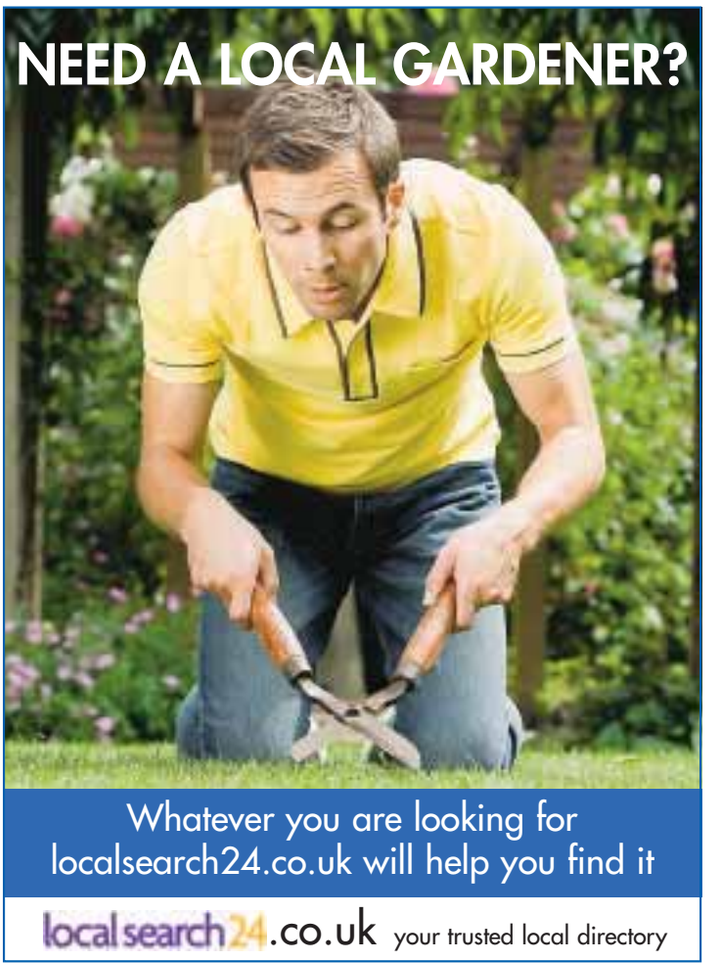
Another definition was put forward in the 1907 book Highways And Byways In Kent, by Walter Jerrold, explaining that the terms have a more religious meaning.

According to Jerrold, the Men of Kent are supposedly those born within the limits of the Diocese of Canterbury, while Kentish Men are those born within the limits of the Diocese of Rochester.

The more you look into the background of the two county sides, the more interpretations there seem to be, which muddies the waters yet more.

With the true definition of where the two Kentish factions originated perhaps still not entirely clear, the search for the truth continues, proving the county's ancient foundations are still a popular topic.

So, whether you believe you are a Man or Maid of Kent, or a Kentish Man or Maid, the debate will no doubt rage over pints of Kentish ale – or should that be ale of Kent?



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OPINION

Fracking opens up concerns

The Government's go-ahead for shale-gas exploration in Kent could devastate our landscape, says South East Green MEP **Keith Taylor**

THE fight against fracking in Kent is about to begin in earnest.

The Government has announced tax breaks for corporations and compensation for communities as fracking companies look to start shale-gas exploitation beneath the beautiful countryside.

Two sites in Kent are the focus for fracking companies: one to the north of Woodnesborough, near Sandwich, the other at Cowden, near Tunbridge Wells.

Shale gas is trapped so tightly in the rock that it has to be smashed out by high-pressure blasts of chemically-infused water; this is the process known as 'fracking'.

This might be the stuff of George Osborne's dreams, but exploiting it could be a nightmare for people living in Kent.

A study by Bloomberg found that to get the equivalent of 10 years' worth of North Sea gas – based on average US well yields – would require between 10,000 and 20,000 wells. They wouldn't be spread evenly across Britain and it is highly likely Kent would see parts of its countryside become industrialised.

Evidence from abroad, which was visible to anyone who came to a screening of my Drill Baby Drill film tour, suggests that fracking can be devastating for communities.

In recent weeks, studies from Pennsylvania have shown drinking water near fracking sites to be highly contaminated and an explosion at a fracking site in West Virginia hospitalised four workers only last week.

Footage of huge trucks driving through Polish villages, as they bring in the millions of gallons of water needed for fracking, will be deeply worrying to the people of Kent, where companies are seeking sites for extracting oil and gas from the shale.

Then there are the gas flares, which burn waste gas in the exploration stage of fracking and emit harmful air pollutants.

With fracking firms like Cuadrilla lining up to take advantage of Government incentives, it isn't just people living next to fracking sites that should be concerned.

Indeed anyone interested in lowering our energy bills might think twice about fracking when Cuadrilla's own management admits shale-gas extraction will have little effect on energy prices for consumers.

On top of this, our hopes of cutting greenhouse-gas emissions and halting climate change are at risk of being dealt a serious blow if we go ahead with burning even more gas.

This new dash for gas comes at a time when many are worried about how we're going to fill the looming energy gap in the UK. The fact is that fracking isn't the perfect solution the Government would have us believe.

"New dash for gas comes at a time when many are worried about looming energy gap"

Instead of drilling thousands of wells across the British countryside, the Government should be doubling its efforts to cut down the amount of energy we actually use and increase production from truly green sources: the sun, wind and sea.

Thankfully, Kent campaigners, inspired by counterparts in places like Poland and Pennsylvania, are gearing up for the fight.

Only this week the residents of Balcombe, West Sussex, have been protesting and blockading the road as Cuadrilla attempts to drill into the countryside near their homes.

The protesters will undoubtedly inspire similar actions in Kent, and fracking firms will certainly be worried that local communities are far less easily sold the fracking story than this government that purports to represent them.

KOS COMMENT

Is it too late to turn the tide on cyber-bullying?

THE internet has brought us many things; it has opened up a world of knowledge and at the same time made aspects of day-to-day life much more efficient.

But the positives it brings can no way hide the truly abhorrent behaviour it seems to invoke in some people.

Cowardly, vicious individuals, hiding behind a screen and making other people's lives a misery... cyber-bullying is becoming more prevalent, and the tragedies that come with it, more frequent.

Everyone should have freedom of speech. However, the internet has seen it spiral out of control. The only way to solve this is education, but have we already allowed it to go too far?

Enjoy summer of fun

THE summer months are upon us and it's time for the best of our county to shine.

Whether it's the Festival of Wildlife or the Historic Dockyard in Chatham, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Who needs to go abroad when we have all this on our doorstep?

Feedback

Letters/emails/twitter

View from Dover Castle keep by Dean Burton from Chatham

Images of Kent

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Quango-loving Government

I'M SURE many of us are in full agreement with Brian Westcott and Ross Carter of the Green Party (KoS letters, 04/08) over Government savings.

We've already seen the farce of the so-called bedroom tax, which had not been thought through and saved a minimal amount of money.

Meanwhile, billions of pounds are wasted in the NHS while people go without treatment; the Ministry of Defence throws money away while our troops are sacked days away from qualifying for their full pension; and £30 billion-£40 billion is lost to tax-avoiders as MPs look after their rich friends and future employers... and that's just for starters.

As the two gentlemen intimated, the small people are suffering because governments haven't a clue how to run public services, refuse to get rid of their old mates in quangos and other NGOs and are too reliant on big business for jobs, directorships and party donations (*ie* bribes).

Phil Granger, West Malling

School's out on voting Ukip

LEGISLATION recently passed by the Government has so angered many as to make us disinclined to vote for either of the Coalition parties ever again.

For those of us already opposed to voting Labour, this is a problem.

Presently, the most viable alternative seems to be Ukip.

However, in the recent Kent County Council elections many of us would not dare vote Ukip as that party had not declared its position on grammar schools – we felt we could not risk voting in the KCC election for a party potentially opposed to schools of this type.

As grammar schools are such a live issue throughout Kent, would Ukip therefore please state its position on this particular issue?

John Humphrey, Sevenoaks

Weekend filth are at it again

SORRY to say it, but it's the weekend and yet again we have rubbish strewn all over the place.

Why do a small number of people, at most six to 12, spoil life for everyone by constantly littering our roads, making late-night noise and indulging in antisocial behaviour?

Dover Road Residents' Association

Well, I liked county show!

I THOROUGHLY enjoyed my visit to this year's Kent County Show, which I thought was a great success.

It showcased so much of what helps make this county special and the huge contribution that agriculture and our rural communities make to its success.

The showground was packed when I went and people seemed to be having a great time, so I was surprised to read the letter (KoS 28/07) expressing disappointment.

I thought the organisers did a first-class job and I for one look forward to next year's.

Edward Argar, by email

Gunman puts us in bad light

AS a life-long shooting man, I abhor the actions of irresponsible air-gunners who reflect on the rest of us more responsible shooters.

Any true field sportsman would never consider using an inadequate weapon against prey or ever shoot out of season, let alone a protected species, which the herring gull is (KoS 28/07). The only gull that can be legally shot year-round under the open licence is the lesser black-backed gull.

The rest are protected, irrespective of how much nuisance they are causing.

The council pest-control department will always help to reduce any problems gulls may be causing.

Only shooters who are members of The British Association for Shooting & Conservation can shoot, take or trap the animal species listed in the open licence as they are trained and have adequate weapons that kill cleanly, without the animal suffering.

Even though the animals listed can be taken during the spring, most responsible shooting men would find it distasteful to shoot, causing the young to be abandoned.

I hope the irresponsible idiots who orphaned the gull chicks are truly ashamed of their actions.

John Atkins, Greatstone

Royal Mail will still deliver

READERS may be interested to understand what the recent announcement on the privatisation of Royal Mail means for our customers, our business and our people.

The Government has acknowledged it is not a good owner of large businesses.

Private ownership will enable Royal Mail to become more flexible in the fiercely competitive markets in which we operate.

We will also have long-term access to capital when we need it. The Government has made clear it doesn't have the money to allocate to Royal Mail ahead of schools and hospitals.

We aim to combine the best of the public and private sectors. The six-day-a-week, one-price-goes-anywhere, affordable universal service will remain unchanged, protected by law. The quality of service regime that applies to Royal Mail under public ownership will continue to apply under private ownership.

Ofcom has already specified minimum standards under regulation. Royal Mail will continue to offer good value for money.

Our people are at the heart of Royal Mail. The current position is that all terms and conditions that apply now to Royal Mail employees would remain in place, on the same basis, were the company to be sold.

To provide further reassurance, we will create a legally-binding, enforceable contract with the CWU.

Many previously Government-owned companies have flourished under private ownership.

Raymond Tompsett, delivery director Kent

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(T&C's below)

LISA blonde, blue eyes, looking for male, 42-54 for fun and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404877**

LADY 57, away with the fairies, looking for her wizard and enchantment. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403093**

PAULINE, passionate, intelligent, discreet married lady seeks discreet special man of any age, call for more info. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 339087**

LIZ blonde blue eyed curvy female, considered attractive, tactile, sensual, enjoys music, entertaining, nice people, seeking well educated professional 50-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402773**

JO 29 tall slim female who loves soaps, animals, shopping, being a mum and am looking for 40's male with GSOH who will appreciate a tactile, loving female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402765**

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891**

SLIM N/S female, 54, working, reliable, easy going, likes nature, animals, seeks nice male companion, 50-64 for country/seaside walks and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405745**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, Military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405707**

AMANDA 44 blonde, blue eyed, very leggy, fun to be with, honest and caring seeking kind, considerate honest gent 74-79 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405315**

SUE 65, slim, animal lover, 5ft, blonde, likes socialising, meals out, theatre, countryside, happy go lucky, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405767**

BEAUTIFUL olive skinned sensual lady, adventurous, with some naughty ways, discreet and seeks same. Age/looks/nationality unimportant but must be adventurous. **Tel: No. 0905 002 1957 Box 345725**

ATTRACTIVE female, 53, N/S, 5ft 8ins, looking for similar male, 50-55 who loves countryside, animals and is easygoing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405421**

CAROLINE 60, 5ft 2ins, likes animals, walks, travel, gardening, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402067**

59YR old Kent lady, bubbly, large build, dog lover, easy-going, GSOH, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403071**

JAYNE 44 bored, underappreciated pretty blue eyed intelligent lady seeking fun and interesting professional in similar situation to me for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403011**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

LISA 44, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, nice personality, trustworthy, kind, likes cinema, nights in, walks, music, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404751**

SUSAN seeking nice male, medium build, 35, easygoing, likes music, nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406779**

JACQUELINE 79 widow, easy going, good listener, not slim or neurotic, OHAC, Sevenoaks, lonely would like gentleman's company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405533**

CLAIRE looking for adventurous male to live life to the max and enjoy adult fun times with. Go on give me a call. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402993**

GILL 41, shy, lonely single country loving female with no ties, OHAC WLTM n/s genuine, confident male companion for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402799**

AMANDA 36yr old single female, blue eyes, curvy, really pretty with lovely smile, loves music, nights out, WLTM loving male for dates and hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402787**

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

MALE 48, 5ft 10ins, medium build, likes gardening, cinema, reading, WLTM lady. Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404295**

LYN happy, young looking 72yr old, seeking interesting man, 65 plus to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403101**

PICK AN ADVERT AND MAKE A DATE TODAY!

GEORGINA widow, WLTM gent, 60-80 with GSOH for days out, friendship, companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

SHIRLEY 32 attractive nurse, enjoys good food/wine, keeping fit, looking good, searching for non committed relations with mature well-dressed man. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402779**

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

ANNA very lonely divorced single mum with lots of love to give seeks similar caring male who also wants to find the right person, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403481**

LISA 39yr old tall slim blonde with GSOH and a wicked sense of humour, employed, OHAC, looking for similar male who enjoys life as much as I do. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403391**

DOG lover short of British slim petite lady to maybe get into 1-2-1 relationship and start something new. Smoker welcome, age immaterial. Tunbridge Wells area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404417**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**

60YR old black female, sociable, seeks romantic, articulate white male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402523**

REBECCA kind, caring, honest, lonely, seeking older gent to wine and dine me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402273**

DIVORCED female, 66, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, seeks male, 65-75 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403275**

21YR old slim figured female, no ties, looking for male 30-45yrs for non committed relationship, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402761**

CHRIS petite attractive brunette, enjoys social drinks, meals out, theatre, seeks hardworking professional male looking for adult attention too. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402759**

47YR old female, fun loving, green eyes, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 47-52 with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401287**

SANDRA outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230**

DELILAH 49, likes animals, blonde, blue eyes, seeking older gent, late 70's who is kind and willing to care about me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403769**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

LISA 5ft 2ins, 43, average build plus a few pounds, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for man for dates. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401421**

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521**

JAN 54, petite, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394382**

JACQUELINE 82, widow, car driver, not slim, ugly or neurotic, seeks interesting, caring gent, 70 plus for talk and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403659**

BEV very attractive lady who loves cosy nights in, seeks caring man who can put the spring back in my step and twinkle back in my eye, call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403353**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

MICHELLE petite fun female, outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad, OHAC and pretty self-sufficient, looking for someone to share a LTR with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399515**

SENSUAL female looking to enjoy life a little more, seeking likeminded male to enjoy interesting conversations over dinner, hopefully furthering our experience. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399195**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

SINGLE mum, 35, white British, 5ft 2ins, varied interests, looking for male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400329**

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**

FEMALE looking for male for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365**

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173**

Men Seeking

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(T&C's below)

TALL slim male, early 40's, seeks loving female, 29-39 to share the nice things in life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407065**

CANTERBURY white mature male, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, seeks slim-medium build black/white/Asian/oriental female, 20-40 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697**

TALL friendly, light hearted, single, 58, seeks pretty woman for LTR with mutual selection of activities and choosing how to spend our time. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405557**

70YRS young male, good looking, GSOH, seeking lady for love and affection. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403455**

RONALD 65 plus, 5ft 9ins, slim, sociable, GSOH, tactile, N/S, many interests, seeking lady dance partner to learn ballroom and Latin. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403211**

STEVE 64, active, likes fishing, swimming, karaoke, honest, genuine, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405717**

DISCREET kind man, 48, gentle, loving, genuine, seeking lady, Whitstable. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406439**

CANTERBURY sign language interpreter 58, 5ft 10ins, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, seeks slim-medium build female, 21-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697**

BLACK male, looking for 1-2-1 relationship with laid back, understanding female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406221**

MEDWAY male, 60's, solvent, seeks attractive lady, 55-65, GSOH to wine, dine and share the good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405429**

RICHARD divorced, 61, N/S, likes classic cars, looking to meet nice lady for meals out, days out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406349**

BRIAN 6ft 3ins, medium build, blue eyes, brown hair, fun loving, happy go lucky, honest, seeks special lady for fun and to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406333**

MIKE 39, 6ft 7ins, large build, blue eyes, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406321**

DEREK Croydon area, 52, self employed, seeks female for 1-2-1 relationship, likes meals out, places of interest, holidays. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406559**

OUTGOING professional, fun loving, entertaining male, seeking warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405633**

ANDY 36, sexy, fun, come say hello. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402903**

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easy-going, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589**

YOUNG 70 widower, fit, lonely, 5ft 11ins, 11st, likes drives, walks, DIY, meals out, gardening, smoker, looking for lady to spend life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405519**

35YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, easy going, likes music, films, reading, walks, looking for female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405941**

ACTIVE 60's semi-retired man, OHAC, GSOH, enjoys theatre, dancing, singing, amateur dramatics, coast, gardening etc., WLTM n/s female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404671**

FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jar half full. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857**

DAVE 45, 6ft, large build, ginger hair, green eyes, caring, OHAC, likes laugh, cinema, pubs, restaurants, walks, shopping, music, dvds, gardening, animals, seeks female of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405451**

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easy-going, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589**

VIC mid 60's medium build male, active, N/S, likes countryside, DIY, seeks compatible female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405085**

CHRIS from Folkestone, 68yrs young widower, N/S, 5ft 9ins, OHAC, likes country music, rock n roll, WLTM N/S female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405079**

CHRIS 68, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

40 something Gemini 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, varied outdoor interests, seeks similar outgoing female, 30-45 for dates and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404535**

TED 63, 5ft 7ins, average build, seeks female 55-75 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401913**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, OHAC, independent, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Children/animals welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404537**

THANET male, young mid 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403729**

SALVATORE 68, N/S, widow, Italian, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402481**

MICHAEL slim, 44, likes CD, films, seeks older male 55 plus for fun times in the Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404373**

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013**

DENNIS 53yrs retired police officer living in Kent, WLTM female for mutual fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404201**

GARDENER 50, 6ft, honest, happy, single, fit gardener seeks attractive younger lady for fun NSA nights in, weekends away, country walks, picnics and good conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404115**

KEVIN 49, single dad, employed, good cook/laugh, seeks female for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402405**

KEVIN 50 6ft average build, kind, caring, GSOH, black hair, hazel eyes, various interests, seeks female 35-55 for friendship/romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405087**

FUN fit, 60yr old male, seeks older, well built female for no strings discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404971**

BRUCE likes meals out, romantic walks, days out, seeking lady, 40-60 for friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403097**

CHRIS 58, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

EDDIE African male, seeking female, 20-40 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394354**

BLACK male, 50, bubbly personality, seeks buxom, pear shaped, rubinesque white female, 25-55 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402887**

GENUINE fun loving guy 55, medium build, blue eyes, seeks genuine lady, 45-57 for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401761**

GRAHAM 52, N/S, likes days out, antique fairs, animals, seeks slim, attractive, N/S lady, 40-50 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401727**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401595**

BRIAN fun loving, happy go lucky, likes walks, animals, cuddles, nights in/out, seeking loving, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402729**

BLACK British male, African descent, medium build, varied interests, understanding, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402641**

ROBERT medium build, single, seeks nice, attractive, busty female with sexy clothes. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402597**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easy-going, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402531**

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TV/BI CD, seeks feminine male with similar interests for discreet daytime meets. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406735**

PETER looking for male, 30-60 for casual fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406049**

THANET male, mid 60's, inexperienced, seeks male of similar age for occasional meetings and mutual interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405863**

BI guy, CD, 57, OHAC, seeking similar for mutual fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404907**

EASY-GOING guy, medium build, likes outdoors, DIY, seeking slim, N/S guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403267**

BI male, senior, clean-shaven, Maidstone area, seeks bi male, N/S for occasional meets, must be discreet, 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402393**

DAVID 66, retired, fit, looking for man, 50-75 for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402249**

BI guy 45, seeking similar bi guy for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402093**

THANET male, mid 60's, inexperienced, seeks male, any age for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401915**

Friendship

STRAIGHT male, 40, Medway, seeks sports buddies into table tennis, golf, snooker and pool. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405417**

MALE early 80's, fit, active, many interests, seeks similar male for friendship and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401621**

JACK mature male, Thanet area, seeks friends of either sex, any age for chats. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399455**

STRAIGHT male, 39, Medway, seeks pals for socialising, likes pubs, cinema, golf, table tennis, football. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398421**

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Weekend

'Made in Britain' may no longer be held in the same esteem it once was, but one Kent family have proved your don't need foreign goods to live a happy and contented life

By **GREG MILES**

FLYING THE FLAG: The Bradshaw family decided to buy only British goods in way of protest against American firms' efforts to avoid paying tax in the UK

One family's Buy British policy has the bulldog spirit

IMAGINE if Britain closed its borders to foreign imports tomorrow... how would you cope? But that is exactly how a family from Westerham have been living since January this year – with surprising results.

The Bradshaws – Emily, James and toddler Lucan – have abided by the simple yet complicating rule of using just British-made products.

In a time of austerity, and with Britain criticised for its faltering manufacturing industry, it is a challenge they could have perhaps done without.

However, the drastic-sounding idea is one the family took up as a protest and to prove a point after the tax-avoidance storm relating to Amazon and Starbucks at the end of last year.

The American giants were paying little in tax despite making multi-million-pound profits from UK business.

"My wife said to me well before Christmas 'I'm not happy about the likes of Amazon and Starbucks not paying taxes in the UK'. She said she wasn't going to buy any Christmas presents from Amazon," said James.

It has given rise to some interesting and surprising results, which the family have been sharing via their website and blog, as well as with the national media.

"We just started discussing what it would take to invest all your money in British products," said James.

"It was a convoluted idea. I created the blog but didn't expect anyone but family and friends to look at it. Due to the interest, we have been on TV a number of times, travelled around the world and been in nearly every UK national newspaper. We couldn't have guessed we would have had all this publicity."

After a difficult few months of scouring labels for the all-important 'Made in Britain' moniker, Emily, 29, a teacher at Hazelwood School in Oxted, and James, who was recently made redundant from his marketing job in the City, soon became experts in what they could and couldn't buy.

It also forced them off the high streets, where they discovered that shop after shop sold foreign imports.

"Every sector has its issues – there are nuances within every one," said 34-year-old James. "There is clothing that might say it is made in Britain or England, but they have actually just had a button stitched on here.

"It takes an enormous amount of research, but it has got easier. The first couple of months were really difficult because you're learning to shop again."

As far as food is concerned, they have been making the most of a local vegetable-box scheme, whereby seasonal vegetables are ordered straight from the source. It is a far cry from going to supermarkets, where fruit and veg is imported from across the globe and is often out of UK season.

'I haven't seen the high street for seven months, and going to the supermarkets is a rare occurence'

"I haven't been to the high street for seven months, and going to supermarkets is a rare occurrence," he said.

"We get things direct. All the food we eat is seasonal – 90 per cent of our food comes from within 30 miles of where we live. Eating like that is saving us a fortune, about 20 per cent on our weekly shop a week. We used to spend about £100 and now spend under £80.

"We did try using some of the bigger vegetable-box companies, but they couldn't guarantee all the stuff was locally sourced. The local company could do whatever we wanted."

Food may be the obvious thing that

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springs to mind when it comes to their experiment, but the Bradshaws have taken it as far as to what fuel they put in their car and have risked going without their TV remote, which is on the blink with the foreign batteries running out.

"Petrol was a difficult one – we use BP and Murco as they have refineries in the UK," said James.

"The biggest challenge has been the smaller things. Some things you just could not prepare for, like printer ink – we can't get any ink at all. Batteries are another and the really innocuous stuff, like light-bulbs."

While they have discovered what Britain does not make, it has opened their eyes to what the nation does offer.

James said: "One of the surprises when we started the process was that there is a feeling Britain doesn't produce anything any more. That's the general attitude. In reality, we have found the opposite.

"That's why we have wanted to talk about it. People need to back British. The British alternative to things isn't any more expensive – it's the same, if not cheaper. It's just whether the supermarket stocks those products."

'There needs to be a major movement, like in the US, where some families have never owned a foreign car'

Three-year-old son Lucan has also had a change in playing habits. Battery-operated toys are a no-no with no British supply, and so James has gone down the DIY route, making wooden toys and a wooden swing set for his son's last birthday.

"I have had to be a bit more creative. I built him a swing set in the garden using British wood and fastenings. We have had to think outside the box to keep him entertained," he said.

BACK TO BASICS: James, Emily and their son Lucan have been championing British-only goods since the turn of the year

When James and Emily started, the idea was to see if they could last a year.

The couple look set to keep some principles, but others, like needing batteries for their remote control, will see them breaking the British-only habit.

"We said we would keep it up for 12 months. There are some things that would be silly to give up, like the food," James said.

He is, though, hopeful their experiment will have others following suit and thinks it was well timed, given the peak in patriotism after last summer's Olympics.

"I think there needs to be a major movement, something like there is in America, where generations of families have never owned a foreign car," he said.

"It's hard to envisage what any kind of movement would look like. We just need something to give it a shot in the arm.

"There was a feeling the interest would die off at the end of January and people would only get interested again on December 31, but the interest has been sustained every month since we started.

"It is the first time in my life I'm proud to be British."

Bradshaws to showcase the best of British

AS PART of their experiment the Bradshaws are holding an event to promote British businesses later this month.

The British Family Fayre will see the nation's firms showing off their work, alongside some family entertainment.

Lush Cosmetics will be giving demonstrations into the making of its products, while there will workshops from King of Shaves and the Derwent Pencil Company. Entertainment includes the Highland Pipers, London Welsh Rugby Club Choir and the Rock Choir.

The National Farmers Union is providing educational and farm-based activities.

There will also be a live auction of products donated by British industry, including a British-made Union flag signed by celebrities, including Mayor of London Boris Johnson and Prime Minister David Cameron.

The British Family Fayre will be taking place on Saturday, August 31, from 11am until 6pm at Squerryes Court, Westerham TN161SJ.

For more information, visit www.britishfamilyfayre.co.uk.

Our brands in foreign hands

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YOUR leisure

What a Carry On... Anita's story

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

WHEN it comes to reminiscing, Anita Harris has all the trump cards, with tales from Carry On films to backstage chats with Frank Sinatra all tucked away in her locker.

The old-school show-biz star is happy to share those memories while also performing some of her hits during her new tour, which is coming to Deal's Astor theatre on Saturday, August 24.

Anita got her big break when she was spotted dancing on an ice-rink in the capital as a 15-year-old. It was not long before she was touring Europe and performing in Las Vegas.

She went on to enjoy a career that included chart success with Just Loving You, years in the West End in Cats and appearances in two Carry On films.

"I worked with wonderful people like Harry Secombe, Tommy Cooper and Morecambe and Wise," she said. "Harry was such a wonderful and generous artist and person.

"After that, we toured on the Combined Services Entertainment show to all the troops and went to places like Cyprus and Borneo. It was an incredible experience.

"I started in Italy and Brussels and went to Las Vegas. That is where I met Mae West. When I was there, it was in its much quieter days.

"It was the beginning of Sinatra's big days of working there. I went backstage and met him briefly – he was very charming. It was great to see him on stage and hear him perform – he was so jolly and funny. He captured everything show business is about. He entertained and was a part of the family and audience."

TALES TO TELL: Anita Harris has enjoyed a full career since she was spotted aged 15, with roles alongside Phil Silvers, centre, and Tommy Cooper, right

After those days abroad, she returned to England and recorded several singles, with Just Loving You peaking at No 6 in the charts in 1967. That same year, she made it into the Carry On series of films, first with Follow That Camel alongside American star Phil Silvers and then Carry On Doctor.

"Joining the Carry On team was indeed a special time in my life," said Anita. "I walked into an arena of incredible comedy actors who had worked for years at their craft.

"I working at the Prince of Wales Theatre in a review with Frankie Howerd. The Carry On producer and director went in to see him and book him for the next film. They saw me work and invited me to the first one – Follow That Camel with Phil Silvers – and that was wonderful.

"The film was set in the Sahara desert, but it was filmed in Camber Sands. I learnt you didn't necessarily go to the Sahara desert to be in the Sahara desert."

The follow-up Carry On Doctor saw her star alongside stars such as Barbara Windsor, with whom she remains good friends today.

"It was an incredibly different role," said Anita. "I had to prove myself to Kenneth Williams. Sid James was an uncle-like character. It was a great learning curve.

"Actors and performers, when we rehearse, we are intense and concentrated to learning the lines – if you embed that into your system, you can have fun. It's the same with any job – if you sustain knowing what you're doing, you can branch out.

"All these artists sit on your shoulders for ever – they make a strong indent into your career."

■ **Anita Harris is at the Astor on Saturday, August 24. Tickets are priced at £12 in advance or £14 on the door. To book, phone 01304 370220. Doors open at 7pm; show starts at 8pm.**

Battleground re-enactments to take centre stage at Combined Ops show

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

THE Combined Ops extravaganza promises realistic battle re-enactments and the chance for military fans to get up close to vehicles and aircraft when the show roars into Headcorn aerodrome next weekend.

The show is in fifth year at the former Second World War airfield and features flying displays, with a Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster bomber all set to make an appearance.

There will also be fly-pasts by the Red Arrows and an RAF Sea King helicopter.

On the ground, visitors will be able to take a close-up look at tanks, jeeps and many other wartime vehicles.

But the show's real spectacle is the number of realistic re-enactments taking place across the weekend of August 17-18.

Soldiers, tanks and aircraft will take part in choreographed battles across the airfield, depicting events from a range of conflicts.

James Baxter, spokesman for Combined Ops, said: "We always encourage our guests to dress up and are looking forward to Combined Ops 2013 being bigger and better than ever before, with an amazing line-up of flying displays planned this year on both days.

"It is fantastic news that we will have the Red Arrows fly-past again this year.

THE REAL DEAL: Choreographed soldiers, tanks and aircraft will combine to re-create famous battles

"Following the tremendous success of last year's event, with more than 6,000 people enjoying the displays, we will be even bigger this year, packed with family entertainment throughout both days.

"Nowhere else can there be so much to see, in the air and on the ground, all in one place."

An interactive experience that will no doubt prove popular this year is the chance to ride around the venue in a tank, courtesy of www.rideatank.com.

Youngsters will also be able to get in on the action in mini-tanks thanks to www.minitanks.biz.

If flying is more your thing, then pleasure flights will be running in a 1930s vintage Drag-on Rapide passenger biplane during the show.

Booking for the flights are available on site.

Tickets for the event are available online and priced at £8 for adults (£9 on the door) and £6 for children and seniors (£7 on the door), while under-fives go free. Family tickets are available from £22 online (£25 on the door) and can be booked at www.heritage-events.co.uk.

FRONT RUNNER: Karting thrills at Buckmore Park

Kart school still out for summer of excitement

THERE is still time for young drivers to make the most of the summer holidays at Buckmore Park before next month's return to school.

The venue's Introductory Kart School offers drivers aged eight to 16 a chance to learn on the same stage Formula One world champions Lewis Hamilton and Jenson Button honed their talents.

The school is perfect for those novices who want to sample the exciting world of karting at full throttle.

The session provides drivers with the basic skills in karting, along with preparing them for further Sisley Kart School lessons or races.

After a track walk to identify the winning racing lines, you can build your confidence and gain better lap times, all within the care of MSA ARKS Instructors.

The track is also holding a family fun day on Monday, August 26, for ages four to 84!

For more information about Buckmore Park events, you can phone 01634 661612 or alternatively visit www.buckmore4kids.co.uk.

Words man Simon enters stage right to help writers

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

FROM estate agent to West End playwright, Simon Mendes da Costa has had a varied career that he will now be sharing with aspiring writers as part of a new initiative at The Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury.

The 55-year-old has been appointed the theatre's first literary associate in a move that will see him co-ordinate playwriting sessions.

It continues a career in the industry that only started at 31 for the Whitstable man and has seen him go on to write shows such as Losing Louis, starring Lynda Bellingham and Alison Steadman, which, after a run in the West End, went global in 2005.

Before writing, he was an estate agent in London. He began his career change by taking evening acting classes and working as a computer programmer during the day.

He said: "I met a woman who ran a writers' group and I decided to go along because I've always liked to be part of something, part of a group. I was there for three weeks when I was asked what I wrote. I said 'Do I have to?' and they said 'It is a writers' group, you know'.

PEN PAL: Simon Mendes da Costa

"Well, I had to write something for the next week and that was the first time I put pen to paper."

He struggled to write a short story and instead wrote a sketch based on the breakdown of a relationship, which ultimately formed the basis of his first play.

That play, Table For One, opened at The Hen & Chickens theatre bar in Highbury, north London, in 2001.

Speaking on his appointment at The Marlowe, he said: "This is an exciting and interesting opportunity for me, the theatre and, hopefully, all those who take part in the workshops and those who submit new writing.

"They are for anyone – people who have never written before, or those who have been doing it for a while. They will gain experience and confidence and what I want at the end of the course is for people to have written their own piece, based on whatever they like.

"Finding your own voice takes time and I know how difficult writing is, but it is something you can do."

The Marlowe will be running three playwriting sessions: Marlowe's Young Writers, aimed at those aged 13-18, and Marlowe's Speakeasy and Marlowe's Playwrights, both for those aged 18 and over.

All sessions start mid-September. Visit www.marlowetheatre.com or phone 01227 787787 for details.

Lady giraffes settle into new home

TWO endangered female giraffes have arrived at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park as part of a breeding programme.

It is hoped the Rothschild's giraffes will be joined by a male in the near future in the project to boost dwindling numbers of the species.

Animal director Adrian Harland said: "We are delighted to be accepted as part of this breeding programme. There are so few Rothschild's giraffes in the wild that programmes like this one are essential. I hope – with the arrival of the male Rothschild's – that we will soon have the patter of tiny hooves."

The female giraffes, Lunar and Lehanna, travelled from Woburn Safari Park to arrive at their new home on The African Experience at Port Lympne. Their arrival means Port Lympne joins an exclusive group of 14 institutions in the UK to hold Rothschild's giraffes.

Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 September

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FOOD&DRINK AWARDS 2013

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We are delighted to be able to bring you the very first *Kent Life & Kent on Sunday* Food & Drink Awards

THE Kent Life & Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards will take place at Tudor Park Hotel on Thursday, November 14, 2013, from 6.30pm to midnight.

These brand-new awards are designed to champion, highlight and offer a showcase to the good and the great from the county's food and drink industry, including local producers and suppliers, small farming businesses, chefs, restaurants, pubs and hoteliers – people who care about the countryside and the future of our local environment.

The companies nominated will all be voted for by you, our readers. We want to know if you've received a fantastic meal at your local pub or have been impressed by the produce and service at your farmers' market or farm shop.

Entry forms are available online at **www.kentnews.co.uk**.

Entries close on Friday, August 30, 2013.

Our panel of judges will then select a shortlist, kickstarting the independent judging process where finalists will be visited or interviewed to determine a worthy winner in each category.

All finalists will be invited to the prestigious awards ceremony in November, where they will enjoy a Champagne reception and three-course meal based on locally-sourced produce before finding out if they are a winner.

This is the first Kent Life & Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards and we are immensely proud to be able to offer you the chance to reward and recognise the deserving businesses within our local food and drink industry, the ones that consistently go above and beyond expectations.

These awards are what you make of them so if you are the owner of a restaurant, a budding chef or local producer, then help to spread the word among your clients and visitors.

With our online voting system up and running, it takes no time at all to cast your vote.

The judging panel is looking for quality over quantity, focusing on good comments rather than number of votes, so everybody is in with a chance, no matter how big or small your business is.

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AWARDS CRITERIA

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

Pomegranate Catering

This popular category is open to anyone in the food or drink business who has started a new venture within the last 18 months. It could be any food and drink business but we want to know what impact they have made on the local community and whether they have started to achieve any success further afield. Are they helping to promote Kent food and drink to a new audience? Tell us who has impressed you.

BUTCHER OF THE YEAR

Porsche Centre Tonbridge

This category is here for one reason and that is to praise our many local butchers and everything they do for Kent. Consider asking your butcher how their meat is hung, prepared and cut and whether it can be traced to a local farm. Are the staff knowledgeable and helpful? Does the butcher play a key role within the local community? If so, nominate them.

BEST TEA SHOP OF THE YEAR

Audley

We recognise that tea shops are an integral part of the Kent food and drink scene and we'd like to know your favourites. Who makes the best tea, serves the nicest cakes and the freshest scones? Is the jam home made and are the sandwiches freshly cut and liberally filled? Most importantly, are most of the ingredients locally sourced? We're looking forward to hearing about your favourites.

INDEPENDENT RETAILER OF THE YEAR

This category acknowledges the hard work Kent's independent food and drink retailers put into giving their customers the best possible experience in-store, reinforcing their role at the heart of the community and showing true innovation with their displays. We are looking for independent retailers who put local and seasonal at the heart of the food and drink experience and who are proud to work with and support the best the Garden of England can offer.

BEST FARM SHOP

Waggon at Hale

Just like our Farmers' Markets, a good farm shop needs to have that extra-special something to tempt shoppers away from their local supermarket. Are the staff friendly and knowledgeable, is the range of produce and the layout of an excellent standard, does your local farm shop offer a box scheme? Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised on that farm, or nearby and if not would the owner be able to tell you where it is from?

BEST FOOD OR DRINK PRODUCER

This category celebrates our local suppliers and producers who play such a vital role in the food community. We are looking for someone who consistently provides a reliable quality of products and services to their customers. So whether it's your local bakery, drinks merchant or meat producer, we want to know why this person or business goes the extra mile for you and gets your vote.

BEST FAMILY DINING VENUE

Eastwell Manor Berkshire

We've all experienced that sinking feeling when you go out for a meal with the family and you know almost immediately the proprietors and staff would have preferred you to have left the kids at home. We want to know about the exact opposite, those establishments that welcome and treat with respect your whole party, from elderly to very young, and ideally don't banish you too an outer room away from the main dining area. Do they have high-quality menus that suit every age group, provide high chairs if needed, offer useful distractions such as paper and crayons for younger children to use at the table? Is there a children's play area and good baby-changing facilities in the toilets? And most importantly is the food of an excellent standard and worthy of mum and dad as well as the younger members of the party? Tell us all about your best family dining experience in Kent.

BEST PUB OF THE YEAR

faversham.org connect

Combining country pubs and dining pubs, the whole eating-out experience needs to be taken into account in this category. Customer service, value for money and the quality of the food should all be accounted for. How well does the establishment you recommend use and name local suppliers and seasonal produce throughout its menus? Neighbourhood pubs are at the heart of the local community and this category is your chance to give something back for all the enjoyment they give you. Are the staff friendly and welcoming, even if it isn't your local? Are there local ales, juices, wines and ciders available to purchase and if so, are they proudly on display? Also, note the quality and speed of the service, the overall atmosphere and ambience, both inside and outside in the beer garden.

BEST FARMER'S MARKET

MYFERRYLINK
Owned and run by the crew

The key to a good Farmers' Market is not only the range of produce and the quality of its stalls but also the principles that it supports – for example, does it work as a co-operative with other farmers, is most of the produce sold there grown or raised locally? Are the stallholders welcoming and knowledgeable and is the layout easy to navigate as you move around the market? Are any extras offered on a regular basis, such as cookery demonstrations or talks, is it well advertised so you can plan your visit in advance, is there good accessibility and parking?

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

Romney Marsh Fish Market

We suspect that this category will be one of our most coveted awards, as the Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Restaurant of the Year needs to offer an incomparable dining experience, from the ambience to the service and most importantly the food. Is it locally sourced and does it change with the seasons? Does chef support local producers and are they recognised on the menu? Look through the wine list, are there local as well as international wines and sparkling wines and can the staff tell you more if you ask? We'd expect nothing less from our Restaurant of the Year.

CHEF OF THE YEAR

Swans Kitchens & Bathrooms Ltd

Kent is blessed with outstanding chefs working in the county's fantastic array of restaurants. The Chef of the Year should be someone who has devoted him or herself to the cause of serving the best possible food. They will demonstrate technical ability, use of seasonal ingredients, presentation of the food and an understanding of how flavours work together. They will be able to lead and inspire their team and to talk to customers knowledgeably about the dishes they have enjoyed. Above all, we are looking for passion – that magic ingredient that defines true greatness in the kitchen.

BEST KENT FOOD AND DRINK HERO

Vaughan of Maidstone

Kent has a food and drink scene that is more vibrant than many others across the UK. This category celebrates the individual who has made the most impact on the food or drink community – someone who goes the extra mile to promote Kent to a wider audience and is passionate about local produce throughout. Now is your chance to nominate your own Kent food and drink hero.

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

The name remains the same but the vibe is so much better

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

IT'S difficult to shake off the feeling of *déjà vu* when sat at the table of a newly-launched restaurant that boasts the same name and similar décor as its predecessor – a forerunner that has in the past left me cold.

But not to be disheartened, or unfair on the new management, I try to view the re-launched Bar Vasa in Sandgate with fresh eyes. After all, I've been told it's very good.

What strikes me when I walk in is that there already seems to be a bit more life in the place. Not wanting to keep referring back to its previous days, but it often felt empty and soulless.

Sitting there on a Wednesday evening, however, with the sun peering from behind the clouds, the tables outside begin to fill up quickly.

My guest and I decide to eat alfresco. The only downfall to this, unfortunately, is that the outside part, at the front of the bar-restaurant, is right next to a busy main road, just off the beach. It means conversation is often interspersed with the sound of cars zooming past.

This, of course, is not the management's fault and after a little while you get used to it.

A friendly waitress takes our drinks order and we look at the menu, which boasts a mixture of seafood and meat.

I opt for the crayfish and avocado salad with a hot-and-sour dressing and my guest the

tempura-battered tiger prawns with sweet chilli sauce.

The salad is packed full of juicy, tender crayfish – no scrimping on the chef's part. Light and fresh, it is the perfect starter for a summer's evening.

My dining companion's prawns are, again, tender and flavoursome. I am starting to be won over, thinking Vasa seems destined for success.

For the main course, I have moules marinière: steamed mussels in white wine, shallots, cream and parsley, served with chunky chips.

My guest plumped for the pan-seared scallops: king scallops in a white-wine cream sauce with bacon served with samphire and new potatoes. I wish I'd had the same. The scallops were perfectly cooked and the sauce rich and creamy. While the dish looked small, it was deceptively filling.

The mussels were disappointing. Small and slightly chewy, some of them also tasted gritty. There was no sign of the plump, tender mussels for which I was hoping. On the plus side, the sauce they came in was delicious and the chips the perfect accompaniment.

For dessert we shared a vanilla and white rum panna cotta, which was tasty but could have done with more rum.

My food was a mixed bag, but then all of my guest's dishes were very good. The waiting staff were incredibly attentive and the setting lovely.

As a bar-restaurant, it's never going to have the same kind of atmosphere as a restaurant, but for a laid-back meal, sitting in the sunshine with the beach no more than 20 feet away, Bar Vasa is ticking all the right boxes.

Our bill came to £64.45.

Margaret Hall

■ **Bar Vasa**
4 The Esplanade, Sandgate, Folkestone (telephone 01303 24396)

Summer bash for The Wife of Bath's big day

POPULAR Wye pub The Wife of Bath will celebrate its 50th anniversary this month with a big summer bash.

The venue with rooms, which is named after the Geoffrey Chaucer Canterbury Tale, is in the middle of the picturesque village and will be inviting its loyal customers and anyone looking for a good time to come along to the event on Sunday, August 25.

There will be a barbecue buffet featuring locally-made sausages and rump-steak burgers as well as creative salads and a range of desserts. There is also a jazz band and a glass of Pimms on arrival, for a ticket price of £19.95.

The party runs from 12.30pm to 4pm.

Turner café will add good food to the art

TURNER Contemporary resumes its weekend evening dinner service on Fridays and Saturdays.

Open from 6.30pm to 9pm, the café offers a two-course menu at £15 and a three-course menu at £18, both of which will change weekly.

The café will work with local producers such as Windmill Community Allotments to create seasonal menus.

Turner's caterer, Leafi, said: "The joy for us working in Kent is the proximity to so many good suppliers, all of whom share our food values of keeping it simple and seasonal. We are very excited to be a part of the increasingly vibrant evening restaurant scene in Margate."

The Marquis
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Marquis Tasting Menus

The Marquis tasting menus showcase the best of local & seasonal produce – game, dayboat fish, locally reared meat and seasonal fruits & vegetables treated with care & respect.

4 courses £22.50 (usually £30)
or 6 courses £40 (usually £55)

Cut this advert out & bring along with you on the date of your booking or mention when booking. This voucher can be used in our restaurant under the following conditions: Valid Sunday - Friday dinner and Tuesday - Saturday Lunch time until 31/08/13. Excludes bank holiday Sunday & Monday. Not valid in conjunction with any other offer or discount.

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Alkham Valley Road, Alkham, Dover, Kent CT15 7DF
www.themarquisatalkham.co.uk

Chalksole Vineyard

In perhaps the closest British vineyard to France, we have produced a sparkling wine of great quality which perfectly matches the cuisine from the same terroir, blended and bottled by Chapel Down Winery.

The vineyard, in Alkham Valley, just ½ a mile from the Marquis, comprises of 7 acres of Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier & Chardonnay grapes. You are welcome to take a stroll amongst the vines before or after your meal – ask at reception for a map which takes in the vineyard as well as the beautiful Sladden Dexter beef farm & ancient woodland.

And guess what?
This local delight is available exclusively to buy at the Marquis.
So come over and enjoy a glass to start a meal - perhaps take a bottle home with you.

Summer of Fun

A whole lot of jollity for the family in one location

HERNE BAY Mini Golf is an 18-hole course on the seafront, just three minutes' walk from the pier.

It is suitable for all ages and abilities and we do our very best to accommodate the disabled. It is a great activity for all the family with a little healthy competition added for extra fun.

We are positioned next door to Temptations ice-cream and gift shop selling just about everything you need for a day at the beach, with customers telling us it's the best ice-cream in town.

Nearby Harry's Café has the best breakfast around, as well as a full menu to satisfy all.

There's iFun@Sandancers – a family entertainment centre with a prize shop, all the latest ticket games, big-percentage payouts and 2p pushers. There's plenty to keep all the family entertained for hours and a £500 casino.

Classic cars and craft stalls in aid of Demelza

EVEGATE Business Park is holding a Summer Fair & Classic Car Show in aid of Demelza children's hospice.

You can come and exhibit your classic car, motor vehicle, classic commercial, motorbike, agricultural vehicle or kit car for free – or just come for a nice day out with the family.

There will be free entry into the mystery-shopper competition with each display vehicle (sponsored by the British Vehicle Salvage Federation), private auto-jumble and craft stalls, children's entertainment, displays and demonstrations, local produce and much more.

The event is on Saturday, August 17, and entry is free.

Evegate Business Park is at Smeeth, near Ashford, TN25 6SX. It offers a unique insight into traditional old English life, featuring an array of craft shops and thriving businesses.

The centre is a great place to have a bite to eat or to sample some of the many shops and services on offer.

Additionally, the Evegate nature trail starts at the business park – enjoy wildlife before stopping for a picnic.

See www.evegate.co.uk for more information.

Angela's swim school is a safe bet for us all

IT IS frightening to learn that more than a third of children cannot swim by the age of eight.

Drowning is the third-highest cause of accidental death among children under the age of 16. If you need convincing about the importance of learning to swim, my mother was dubbed Super Gran after saving a teenager from drowning in Puerto Rico. At 60 she managed to rescue the 13-year-old boy from rough seas as two lifeguards looked on unable to help.

Two questions I am often asked are what age should a child learn to swim and how long does it take to learn?

Swimming should be as natural as walking and talking. Starting them from four months learning proper technique is what is important.

Swimming is also a skill that needs time to develop.

Over the 22 years I have been teaching, I have found that it takes three to four years to learn to swim properly. That is being able to swim 400m front-crawl, back-stroke and breast-stroke.

My advice this summer is to join swimming classes – it is never too early or late to start.

As Prince William would encourage, let's change the statistics and save more lives.

Visit our website www.angelasswimschool.co.uk for more information on Angelas' Swimming School.

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Summer Fair & Classic Car Show
FREE ENTRY
Saturday 17th August
10:00am - 16:00pm
Classic Vehicle & Kit Car Show
Auto Jumble, Children's Entertainment
Craft Stalls , Local Produce, On-site catering
Event to be held at Evegate Business Park, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SX.
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Summer of Fun

Red Lion roars into the holidays with lots of fun

THE Red Lion in Hernhill dates back to the 1300s and contains many original features.

One big upcoming attraction is our free music festival on Sunday, August 25. There will be a barbecue, hog roast, giant paella, live bands including Blues Bandits, Rubber Biscuit and Coco and more.

Kids eat free this summer! They can choose from their menu, where one child eats free for every full-paying adult.

In addition, there is a superb range of menus and events (see www.theredlion.org).

These include:

Steak Nights: Two eat for £26.95, including wine, on Wednesday and Thursday nights. You will have 9oz rump steaks with chips, peas and tomato. You can choose from a bottle of crisp dry white wine or a mellow, full-bodied red.

Taste of Kent Menu: Served in our refurbished restaurant, this sources all its produce from within a two-mile radius of the pub (excluding fish, which is landed at Ramsgate). Available Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

We are open Monday to Saturday from 11.30am-11pm, with food served from midday to 2.30pm and 6pm-9pm, and on Sunday from midday to 10.30pm, with food served from midday to 8pm.

■ **The Red Lion, Church Hill, Hernhill, Faversham ME13 9JR. Phone 01227 751207, or email enquiries@theredlion.org.**

Groombridge is the place for outdoor excitement

ENJOY an enchanting day with your family and visit the perfect place for children to let off steam.

Groombridge Place will be open daily throughout the summer and expects to see plenty of visitors in the school holidays as the estate has something for everyone, including the enchanted forest with tree swings, zip-wires and a trail full of challenges and mystical secrets.

Another favourite is Crusoe's World – a large wooden ship complete with rope bridges.

When it's time to relax, perhaps after lunch in the Peacock Bistro, visit the lovely gardens with their blooms, statues and water features.

Children can play with the giant chess set or hide-and-seek around the award-winning gardens that overlook the attractive moated 17th-century manor house.

Don't miss a trip on the canal boat or the chance to meet the baby animals.

The Bird of Prey Centre is also based here and is a chance to see some magnificent birds up close. They thrill visitors with their daring flying displays every day (except Mondays) at 12.30pm and 3.30pm and are free with admission.

See www.groombridgeplace.com for details of all the summer events to be enjoyed.

Groombridge Place with its award-winning gardens and Enchanted Forest is open daily between 9.30am and 5.30pm (last admission 4pm). The well-stocked shop is open daily.

What the Dickens? Step back in time for literary entertainment

THE Dickens World Grand Tour is a 90-minute journey of discovery.

Your personal guide will walk and talk you through the amazing life and story of Charles Dickens as well as tales of Victorian England.

As well as meeting Dickens's characters, visitors will be able to learn about the different social classes within the highly structured Victorian society, walk the brook and river to where Dickens's family briefly moved, visit a real debtors' prison, take a frightening Victorian lesson and visit some of the Pepper's ghosts in The Haunted Man.

They can then finish off their experience with a range of fun-fair activities and a fully-dressed Victorian photograph in the courtyard.

Coming soon: Halloween Half-term Scare Tour, Dickensian Christmas Tours, Winter Wonderland and Aladdin Christmas Pantomime!

Dickens World Grand Tour entry is from just £5.50 per person. See www.dickensworld.co.uk or phone on 0844 858 6656 for more details.

Summer of Fun

Times are changing at Wingham Wildlife Park

HAVING taken over Wingham Wildlife Park in February 2008, owners Tony and Jackie Binskin and their team have worked hard to see the park turn around, becoming one of the UK's fastest-growing wildlife parks.

Tony Binskin said: "When we first took over the park, it didn't have a great reputation and was still seen as just a bird park. Our toughest job has been changing people's minds and getting the people of Kent to give us another go."

Jackie added: "We now have over 7,000 season-ticket-holders, from the 41 we had in 2008, which shows that a lot of our visitors want to come back and see the new animals on their next visit, which will inhabit the enclosure they saw being built on their previous visit!"

Just in time for the summer holidays, the collection at Wingham Wildlife Park is not going to disappoint, with a cast of new arrivals having joined the park over the first half of the year.

"We work very hard all of the time to bring new and exciting animals, which people want, as well as steering the park in a more conservation-heavy direction," said Tony.

Along with adding individuals to the park, completing pairs of animals, including Loki the male jaguar (who was recently named in a poll on the park's very successful Facebook page),

there are also new species. In January the park received its own pack of European wolves and a few months later it added Jasper the red panda, pictured above, to that end of the site.

Jackie said: "Jasper is a really important conservation animal for us and we hope to find a female for him when he matures, but for now he is a huge hit with staff and visitors alike."

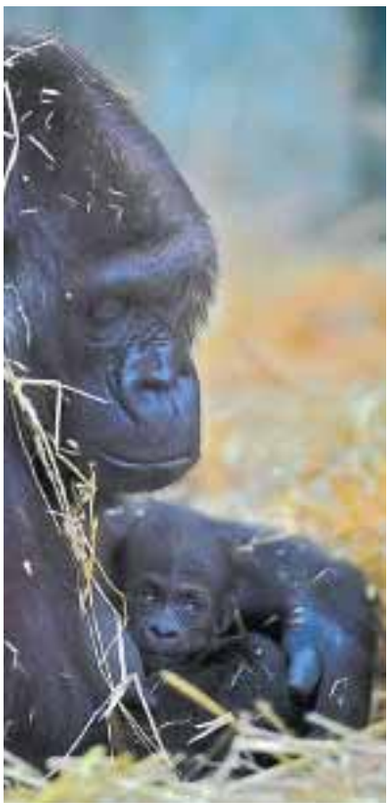
The latest addition to the park is Nando the lowland tapir, a very gentle animal who has taken up residence on the large lake at the park.

"The mandrills that inhabit the island at the other end of the park seem almost as interested in him as our visitors are!" exclaimed Tony.

He added: "Even though we have already had an action-packed start to the year, there are still a few more surprises we have planned for the very near future."

HE NOSE YOU KNOW: Nando the tapir is a gentle animal who has interested beasts and visitors alike!

Summer of Fun



Walk among the animals at Howletts and Port Lympne

TWO fantastic wild animal parks provide the perfect environment in which to experience exciting and educational days out this summer.

Howletts, near Canterbury, is set in an area of glorious natural beauty. There are wooded walkways and paths to explore, along with educational and fun animal talks throughout the day, with something to discover around every corner.

Howletts creates the adventure and you keep the memory. Watch the education team treat the animals to a different enrichment every day at the park.

From honey-pots to hessian bundles, wind-chimes and different feeders, the dedicated team will provide animal treats every day as part of the August theme: a treat a day keeps the vet away!

Join in with the themed ranger trails, events and talks taking place every day throughout the summer break. Younger adventurers can pick up a free ranger's log book – an activity book designed to encourage them to be rangers for the day and learn interesting facts about the animals along the trails.

Walk among lemurs, come face to face with lions, tigers, giant anteaters and western lowland gorillas in their glass-fronted enclosures; spot the latest and cutest new arrivals; and even mimic the primates by trying the exciting tree-top challenge – an obstacle course with rope-bridges and zip-wires.

For the younger adventurers, the animal adventure challenge with climbing walls and wobbly walkways is bound to thrill.

Designed to be a centre of excellence for conservation, Howletts has large enclosures filled with natural foliage to provide camouflage, shelter and privacy for the animals. It's the perfect place to witness conservation in action.

Book your family tickets online and save 20 per cent. Visit www.aspinallfoundation.org/howletts for more details.

Meanwhile, down at Port Lympne, near Hythe, you can join the team for primate pandemonium, during which you will learn all about primates and make your own monkey mask or tail – this activity is available every day in August.

Join the education team for fun and lively primate talks every day throughout the holidays – times of events will be posted on the information boards around the park.

Port Lympne is set in more than 600 acres, with far-reaching views to the coast and beyond – it is the only wild animal park in Kent offering a unique safari experience.

Board a safari truck and be transported to The African Experience, where giraffe, black rhino, ostrich, zebra and more can be seen roaming free, as if on the plains of Africa.

Younger adventurers can also pick up a free ranger's log book here, similar to that at Howletts.

Discover four on-foot zones to meet big cats and small cats in carnivore territory, marvel at the monkeys, lemurs and western lowland gorillas on the primate trail, grab a snack or board a safari truck at basecamp and even say hi to the meerkats in the discovery zone.

Port Lympne, famous for its wide open spaces and stunning scenery, is a breeding sanctuary for some of the world's most endangered animals. This park also prides itself on its large natural enclosures filled with foliage – it's the perfect place to witness conservation in action.

See www.aspinallfoundation.org/portlympne for more information including opening times, entry prices and special events – you can also book your family tickets online and save 20 per cent!

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Amazing value family tickets
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- Port Lympne is one of the largest animal parks in the UK
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... that's why we're a world leader in breeding rare and endangered species.

Visit us at: aspinallfoundation.org
Call us: 0844 842 4647

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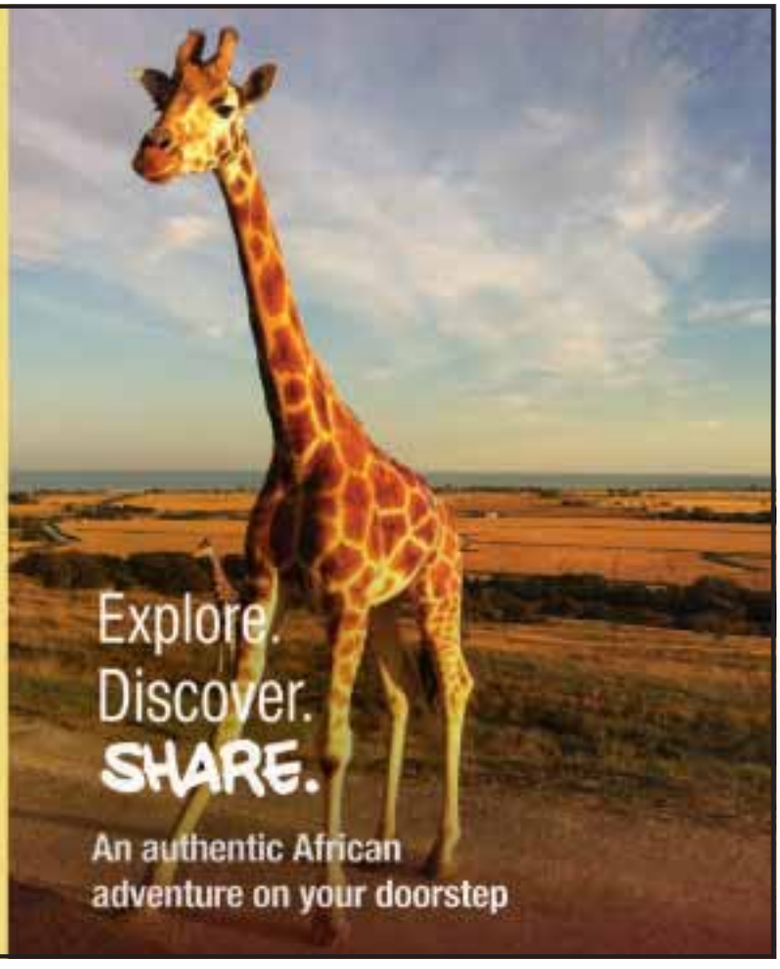

Summer of Fun

Get on board Medway's magical history tour

MEDWAY'S new open-top tour bus is now running daily throughout the summer holidays – with much-loved actor Brian Blessed providing the commentary.

Climb on board and Brian's beloved booming tones will guide you around the area's fascinating historical and cultural destinations.

Included on the tour are Rochester Castle and Cathedral, Fort Amherst, Brompton Royal Engineers Museum, Chatham Maritime, Dickens World, The Historic Dockyard Chatham and Eastgate House.

The all-day, hop-on/hop-off ticket lets you stop off wherever you choose and you can also take advantage of discounted entry at many attractions.

Your on-board guide will be dressed in Dickensian costume, celebrating the famous author's many links with the area.

The bus tours are running on a trial basis following Medway Council's best-ever year for tourism, which saw some 470,000 visitors to the area.

Picture: SIMON KELSEY

The service runs seven days a week until Sunday, September 1. The first bus leaves Medway Visitor Information Centre's coach bay at 10am, then on the hour, with the last bus departing at 4pm.

Further details are available at www.visitmedway.org.uk or by calling 01634 338141.

Explore Medway

Aboard the open top guided tour bus

Over 1000 years of history in one day

- All day Hop on/Hop off travel ticket.
  Adults £5.50; Concessions £4.50; Children £3; Family ticket £13*
  Based on two adults/two children or one adult/three children.
- Costumed character meet 'n' greet.
- Stops include: Rochester Castle; Dickens World; Fort Amherst; Royal Engineers Museum; The Historic Dockyard Chatham; and more.
- Discounted entrance fees to attractions.

Commentary from Brian Blessed

www.visitmedway.org

Enjoy Medway

Medway

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Under 18s ride for £1

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This voucher entitles one person under the age of 18 years to ride the open top guided tour bus for £1 per day.

Keep hold of this voucher and present it each time you purchase a ticket to qualify for this special offer.

Terms and conditions of carriage

- This service is operated by Arriva Kent & Surrey Ltd. on behalf of Medway Council and is subject to Arriva's terms and conditions of carriage where appropriate.
- The ticket purchased for this service is only valid for use on The Explore Medway open top bus and Arriva route 197 to and from Upnor Castle on the day of purchase.
- The all-day ticket is valid on the day of purchase only.
- Passengers may hop-on/off all-day at various designated stops as defined on this route.
- This £1 special offer bus ticket does not entitle the holder to visitor attraction discounts.
- One voucher per person, one ticket per voucher.
- Standing is not permitted on the upper deck or staircase. Passengers are encouraged to remain seated and/or hold on to handrails at all times.
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- Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the bus.

Terms and conditions of offer

This voucher has no cash redemption value. Photocopies will not be accepted.
One voucher per person, one ticket per voucher. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer.
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Quote: CP-KOS

2013: 10, 17 & 24 October
2014: 6, 13, 20 & 27 March

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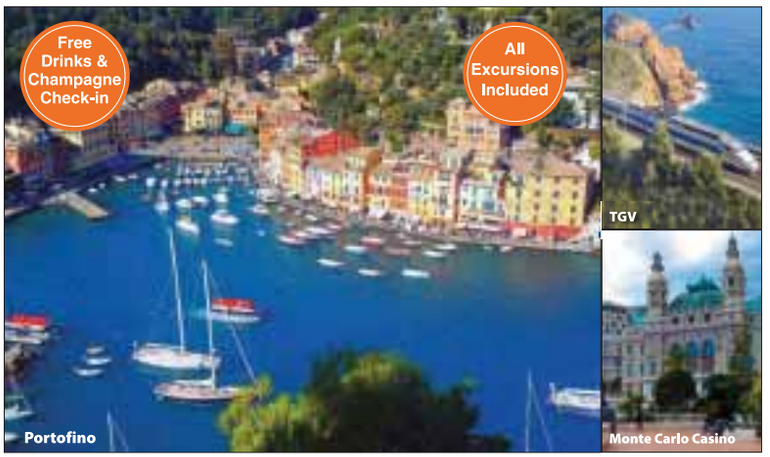
Sailing Cruiser Panorama II
Launched in 2004, this state of the art sail-cruiser offers the highest standard of service, comfort and safety. The ship accommodates just 49 passengers in air conditioned en-suite outside cabins. During the day life on board centers around the outdoor areas including the bar and sun deck. The stern swimming platform enables you to swim when weather and anchorage conditions permit. In the evening relax in one of the ship's two lounges, the library, and enjoy a drink while listening to piano music.
Optional excursion highlights include: The amphitheatre of Epidauros, The ruins of Agamemnon's Royal palace and tombs at Mycenae, Ancient Olympia, birth place of the Olympic Games and the Ancient Oracle and extensive ruins at Delphi.
INCLUDED: Return flights to Athens from a choice of UK airports including 1 checked-in bag • 1 night 3/4-star hotel B&B in Athens - 5* upgrade available • 7 night Full Board cruise sharing a double lower deck standard cabin – upgrades available • All transfers abroad
Note: Price subject to cabin grade and flight availability at time of booking – supp't may apply.



New Year Riviera of Flowers, Monaco & Portofino

Escorted Rail Holiday from London & Ebbsfleet

8 days, semi-all-inclusive

£899pp

Quote: RX12-KOS

27 December, 2013

This super holiday takes in the French and Italian Rivieras where the winters are mild and the atmosphere relaxed. We start with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras before taking an afternoon Eurostar to Lille or Paris. After an overnight stay, we continue by TGV train to Nice then to Italy's Riviera of Flowers. Enjoy free drinks every night at the hotel, a gala New Year's Eve dinner and excursions to Monaco and Portofino.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras • Return rail travel from St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) • 1 night hotel B&B in Paris or Lille • 6 nights in Diano Marina - half board plus free drinks 6pm to 11pm every night • Gala New Year's Eve dinner • Excursions • Transfers abroad

Las Vegas Legends Party

at Pontins Pakefield Suffolk Coast

3 nights half board +99p Bar

£109pp

Quote: PL10-KOS

Friday 4 October, 2013

The Rat Pack and an endless list of world famous stars have made Las Vegas the entertainment capital of the world. We have reserved the whole of Pontins Pakefield resort to bring you a taste of Vegas with tribute acts and a host of nostalgic fun.

INCLUDED: 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

Dirty Dancing Christmas Party

at Pontins Pakefield Suffolk Coast

3 nights half board +99p Bar

£109pp

Quote: DD11-KOS

Friday 8 Nov, 2013

Join us for a fabulous festive party at Pontins Pakefield. Enjoy the classic sounds of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons with top tribute Let's Hang On, a spectacular Dirty Dancing stage show and movie screening, plus a top comedian in Cabaret.

INCLUDED: 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

Grease & Saturday Night Fever Christmas Party

at Mill Rythe Hayling Island

3 nights half board +£1.50 Bar

£175pp

Quote: MR11-KOS

Friday 22 Nov, 2013

We had a fabulous Christmas Party at Mill Rythe in 2012, so we're doing it all again thiu year. We've booked the whole resort and a great entertainment programme, including a Grease movie screening & Tribute Show, Frankie Valli and Bee Gees tributes, a team Christmas show and a host of festive fun.

INCLUDED: £1.50 drinks from 6pm to midnight every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full Entertainment programme • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available

Pontins Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy entertainment every night and day with Pontins' famous Bluecoats and visiting cabaret acts – PLUS a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9 hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. The refurbished chalets are all single storey and situated in level landscaped grounds just a short stroll from the main facilities and car parks. All chalets have TV, tea/coffee making facilities, heating, double glazing, en suite bath/shower & toilet, bed linen & towels. Included meals are taken in the buffet-style cafeteria with views over the grounds to the sea.

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Firm backs tougher insolvency sanctions

BUSINESS advisers from Maidstone have backed Government proposals to impose tougher insolvency sanctions.

DSH Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors has said that new regulations show the importance of ensuring companies are properly controlled. New plans outlined by business secretary Vince Cable will shake up the insolvency process, giving extra powers to the courts and Government bodies including the Insolvency Service and Financial Conduct Authority.

These include allowing courts to impose fines on directors when handing out disqualification orders and ensuring directors banned outside the UK are also banned from running a UK company.

Duncan Cochrane-Dyet, partner at DSH, said: "These proposals will specifically target directors who flout the law and then enter into insolvency.

"For those directors running companies that become insolvent through no negligence of their own, it will make no difference.

"We believe the threat of sanctions and fines highlights the need for increased attention to detail by directors of struggling companies of all sizes and sectors."

All change for new boss at Stagecoach

BUS company Stagecoach has appointed a new managing director to take charge of operations in east Kent and East Sussex.

Philip Norwell will be in the driving seat of a business that employs more than 1,250 staff at eight depots across the region and operates a fleet of 450 buses and coaches and carries 46 million passengers a year.

He said: "I aim to encourage further simplification of the highly-successful bus networks in east Kent and East Sussex, expand smart-ticketing and work with partners including local authorities and businesses to ensure the bus plays a key role in the future."

Mr Norwell has worked in the industry for 39 years, starting out as a general clerk in Peterborough in 1974.

He was a driver for 18 years before joining the Cambridge head office as marketing officer and progressing to commercial director in 2002.

If you have a business story, then we would like to hear from you. Telephone the newsdesk on **01303 817000**, or alternatively email your story to **editorial@kosmedia.co.uk**

Rays of hope as companies savour the summer upturn

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

THE recent hot and sunny weather has been welcome news for many of us, not least those in the county with businesses as they have watched their sales soar.

Jo James, chief executive of the Invicta Chamber of Commerce, has said that a tourism push in the past two months has helped the county's economy grow towards a more positive future.

The chamber has 1,200 members from all business sectors across the county and the group has been comparing statistics between quarter three in 2012 and quarter two this year.

Mrs James said that the Kent economy was beginning to show signs of life, with members reporting increases year-on-year and a steady curve of progression.

She said: "In the current economic climate you have to look at figures month by month and you have to be positive when the things are going in the right direction.

"We have had more members who have had increased sales during this quarter than at around the same time last year, which is good.

"The feedback we have is that across the board things are a little more positive."

The chamber has reported that its members' UK sales have increased this year and there has been a big improvement for businesses exporting their products.

SUNNY DISPOSITION: Chief executive Jo James

Mrs James said: "There is a far better picture – there are more members who have had increased sales over the period.

"This is really interesting because when you also look at export sales over the last quarter there is a 25 per cent increase in the amount of Kent companies selling their products and services abroad.

"Members have also forecast their profits during the next 12 months – about 34 per cent expect to see their profits improve. So there is a more general positive feeling out there."

There has also been upbeat feedback from the chamber's members regarding employment, with 40 per cent of the businesses registered saying they have increased staff numbers in the past three months.

The last two weeks has seen thousands of visitors flock to the county as part of the various music and creative festivals going on around Kent. And with tourists spending money, Mrs James has also had reports of a far better cash flow for businesses.

"When you are looking at the hospitality and leisure sectors, weather is a huge indicator there – you are going to get increases. There is a direct correlation.

"As for cash flow, compared with this time last year we have the same amount of people who say cash flow is 'improving', but the number of members who say their cash flow is now 'constant' is better. Putting that into a figure, 50 per cent less members say that their cash flow is 'worse'. So that is a big plus."

Business-owners from all corners of the county will have their fingers crossed August continues in the same vein as July, with non-stop sunshine loosening our wallets once again.

Sandwich's Discovery Park attracts another three tenants

THE Discovery Park in Sandwich has taken on three more tenants at the 220-acre site.

Europe's largest science and technology park has brought 36 new businesses into the facility in the past nine months.

Broadstairs recruitment consultancy Morgan Jones, which has been in business for 14 years, has now expanded to the park.

The company recruits staff for businesses in the pharmaceutical, engineering, finance, law and accounting industries.

Managing director Jonathan Clarke said: "The Discovery Park will provide an extension to our operation and utilise the services that are currently available to existing clients. Discovery Park represents a very exciting prospect for business in east Kent and we are very pleased to be part of it."

BIG ATTRACTION: Discovery Park

Also moving is manufacturing company Composite Resin Developments, which will be moving its entire factory space from Margate to the Sandwich site as a result of business expansion.

Managing director Mike Jackson said: "Relocating to a facility which offers 8,000 sq ft of quality manufacturing space has enabled us to expand the company and our product range, with a focus on exporting goods.

"We currently employ five people but hope to expand this to 10 within the next 12 months."

Third of the new companies to take up residence is Wilkins Kennedy, which provides accounting and business advisory services across the UK – its third site in Kent, alongside offices in Ashford and Orpington.

Derek Read, associate manager at Wilkins Kennedy, believes that east Kent is a business centre ready to grow significantly.

He said: "Following the investment in Margate's Turner Contemporary Centre, alongside central and regional government regeneration initiatives, a significant level of research has been undertaken and there are several initiatives bringing investment in to the area, such as the Portas Pilot Pop-Up Scheme, the Grow For It campaign and the East Kent Expansion Fund loans.

"These initiatives, coupled with the development of the Discovery Park and Manston airport, make the region an exciting place to be doing business and we were attracted to the site because of its potential and the potential of the surrounding areas."

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Company beginning to benefit from its in-house training programme

TRAINED UP: Sean Falkowski

DOVER-based MOT and service agency Husk Ltd has annouced its first apprenticeship candidate to complete the company's training programme.

After a three-year MAN truck and bus apprenticeship, Canterbury mechanic Sean Falkowski has been awarded an NVQ Level 3 in heavy mechanical and electronic-systems maintenance and repair.

The 21-year-old is now a fully-qualified HGV technician.

Falkowski was selected from a list of applicants and took a structured theoretical and practical programme both at the Husk Lydden workshop and the MAN training HQ in Swindon.

Husk director Tom James said: "This was an excellent opportunity for Sean to learn a skilled trade and take the first steps to developing a career in the industry.

"This is an investment in a young local man that will pay dividends to Husk."

An animated response to EU culture project

STUDENTS from the University for the Creative Arts at Rochester created a unique live event by synchronising computer-generated imagery to classical music.

Animation students produced a visual accompaniment to an orchestral performance of Milhaud's La Création du Monde.

The show, part of a project funded by the European Union's Interreg IVA Channel Programme, aims to engage the creative and cultural industries in the UK and France.

College offers cheaper option than uni courses

NORTH West Kent College is offering a range of higher-education undergraduate programmes as a cheaper university option.

From £4,995, students can gain a foundation degree affiliated to the University of Greenwich, or a Higher National Certificate/Diploma by Edexcel.

After two years on a foundation degree or Higher National Diploma, students can top up their qualification to degree level at university with an extra year of study.

BE PREPARED: Poor grades needn't necessarily stop a student going down their chosen career path

Students in clearing... do your research now

EVERY year thousands of students from Kent are faced with the prospect of not getting into the university they had orginally applied for after a change of situation or poor exam results.

Some will decide university is not for them, but many will look to go through the sorting process known as 'clearing' in which school-leavers can change their focus and find a university course to suit them.

The University of Greenwich at Medway has set up a 'clearing hotline' to help prospective higher-education students find the right courses.

Bev Woodhams, head of recruitment at the university, has worked in higher education for 20 years. She said: "Clearing will be the last chance to get a place at university this September.

"Some courses may not be in clearing and popular subjects fill up fast, but as long as you are prepared and ready in the starting blocks you will be metres ahead in the 'clearing race'.

"The hotline team has trained student ambassadors, academics and specialist professional staff who encourage callers to think about the choices they are about to make and advise them how to go forward."

Mrs Woodhams has put together her top tips for students to help with the process:

1. **Keep calm and stay focused:** So your results could have been a little better, or you've just realised your dream career means doing a stint at university. All is not lost – you now know what needs to be done. Arm yourself with a pen and paper and get down to research. Find out what can you study with the grades you have and what you'd want to study? What do you need to study to progress to the career you really want?
2. **Check your original choices first:** If you've just missed your required grades or UCAS points, it's worth contacting your 'firm choice' university as it may still make you an offer to study.
3. **Be positive:** If neither Higher Education Institution (HEI) will confirm your place, you are now a 'clearing applicant'. You can call any HEI in the UK directly and ask if it will accept you on a particular course with the qualifications and grades you have.
4. **Be prepared:** On August 14, make a list of questions. On August 15, phone the university and ask if you can speak to an academic about the course. Ensure you have your UCAS ID, the results of your recent exams and your GCSEs to hand as well as anything else you intend to use as leverage. If you are undecided, give several universities a ring to see what they can offer, but do remember time is of the essence and some HEIs may issue an acceptance deadline.
5. **Check it out:** Most HEIs will host an open or visit day on August 17-18. If you are serious about studying somewhere, you need to know what it's like. You wouldn't buy a house without reading about it first, would you?

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good-news story, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817000.

New course pointing to secure future

YOUNGSTERS dreaming of a career in the security industry are being urged to take advantage of a MidKent College course hailed by the exam board Edexcel.

The Higher National Diploma (HND) in public services teaches students both "current and relevant" issues and has received "very positive feedback", according to a report into its first year.

Edexcel also commented on the wide range of visits and activities that have been organised, "ensuring learners have a full understanding of the sector, its work and the challenges facing it".

The HND in public services was launched in September 2012 and is one of 20 higher-education courses offered by MidKent College.

It focuses on the security industry, which includes counter-terrorism and conflict management but also covers other public services such as the police, fire service and armed forces.

Students enrolled on the first course learnt about issues affecting organisations in recent times, including the 2011 London riots and the Stafford Hospital scandal.

Teaching and learning manager Katriona Topps said: "We're delighted to have received such a positive report."

Shepherd Neame eyes growth in deal with Swiss distributor

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

FAVERSHAM brewery Shepherd Neame has taken on a new distributing company, a move that could save it some £2 million a year.

The Swiss company Kuehne and Nagel Drinkflow Logistics Limited (KNDL) has signed 10-year agreement and will take over Shepherd Neame's freight operations.

The brewery is hoping that the partnership will help it find new business in northern England and in mainland Europe.

The joint operation will also see 57 Shepherd Neame staff members become KDNL employees with "a very limited number of redundancies", according to chief executive Jonathan Neame.

He said: "Our team does an excellent job, but, good as they are, our logistics operation is sub-scale and restricts our ability to grow outside our heartland.

"This agreement enables us to exploit the national growth opportunities arising in our portfolio for brands such as Spitfire, Whitstable Bay, Asahi and Samuel Adams and also seek out international opportunities as we expand our exports following the completion of a recent distribution agreement into North America.

"This is a significant change for the business which was decided upon after very careful consideration of our options and the impact on jobs and our customers."

The deal will see KNDL take over responsibility for local and national drinks distribution, including to Shepherd Neame's 350 pubs and hotels.

Shepherd Neame will also retain ownership of its Faversham warehouse distribution centre at Bysing Wood and manage customer services.

However, the brewery has announced that it will be reorganising its brewing and brands division and retail and tenanted division, with some job losses expected. The handover process is due to be completed by October.

KNDL is a leading global freight operator and operates in more than 100 countries with a reported 60,000 employees.

KNDL managing director David Coulson said: "This new agreement between Shepherd Neame and KN Drinks Logistics fully supports both businesses' growth strategies and follows extensive discussions.

"An important aspect of the proposal has been the continued operation of the existing facility in Faversham, which will now be fully integrated into the KNDL national distribution network."

The brewery has also reported an increase in beer sales for 2013 ahead of the partnership with the Swiss operations group.

BREWER: Chief executive Jonathan Neame, left

Mr Neame said: "Looking at our trading for the full year, I am very pleased we have delivered a solid performance in difficult market conditions, with like-for-like retail sales up 3.3 per cent. We have a healthy trading position, a strong brand portfolio and this new agreement with KNDL gives us new opportunities."

Earlier this year, Shepherd Neame strengthened its relationship with Kent County Cricket Club with a 10-year sponsorship deal.

This saw the brewery sponsor the club's headquarters in Canterbury, which has been renamed The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence – a reference to the popular Sheps beer.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Quex Park attraction takes tourism award

QUEX Park at Birchington has won the Chairman's Award from Visit Kent in "recognition of support of tourism in Kent".

The Thanet attraction includes the Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex Park Estates Company, Quex Foods and Mama Feelgoods and a range of boutique businesses.

Director Anthony Curwen said: "By working together to create a tourist destination, with the pure mind-set of partnership working, not just within Quex Park but with other attractions, something very special has been created.

"And all this to support and perpetuate the internationally-important museum with its quite literally unique collection and the unique heritage of Quex Park."

Could you be the UK's worker of the year ?

EMPLOYEES from around the county are being urged to sign up and compete For the UK Worker of the Year 2013 competition.

Kent has been well represented in previous years, with fire-protection engineer John Stone from Westerham winning the title in 2010. The competition is designed to recognise excellence in the British workforce.

To enter, visit www.ukworkeroftheyear.com.

'Serious concern' over privatised Royal Mail

ROGER HOUSE, Federation of Small Businesses chairman for Kent and Medway, warns that Royal Mail privatisation could impact on trade.

He said: "The FSB understands reform is needed to make it more competitive. However, we have serious concerns about the impact this could have. Recent sharp increases in postage costs, both of letters and parcels, have already had a negative impact on small businesses."

National crèche looks to the east

A LEADING UK care company will use east Kent as its model as it launches its new mobile crèche service.

Nationally-known service group SureCare will use its east Kent franchise to target hotels, wedding venues and conference and corporate events centres whose attendees may be looking for childcare.

The company has operated franchises and branches across the UK since 1994, with a focus on domiciliary care and taking services into people's homes.

But following the arrival of new managing director Gary Farrer, the company is expanding into childcare and a range of other care-related services.

SURECARE: East Kent's Raj Jayaram and Zola Mangcotywa

Raj Jayaram and Zola Mangcotywa, who run the SureCare franchise in east Kent, are the first group to launch the mobile crèche service.

Mr Jayaram said: "SureCare's decision to expand into childcare was one of the key reasons we were keen to set up our own franchise in east Kent.

"There is growing demand for mobile crèches in Kent, London and elsewhere in the UK, but there is a need for anyone offering this service to have the right experience."

SureCare is known for providing community care services for all age groups, usually targeting more elderly customers, but the new venture will allow it to target both business people and full-time parents who need their children looked after.

"We are able to provide the perfect childcare solution for anyone planning a wedding, conference or corporate event," said Mr Jayaram.

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Skoda eyes the high-end market with Octavia to lead way

Driving

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By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

NISSAN has taken a long hard look at its Micra supermini and shaken it up to take on increasingly tough opposition.

Out goes the Noddy and Toytown front end that put off so many would-be buyers, while the interior has also had a major overhaul to make it more competitive.

In the past, the Micra has been a big hitter for the Japanese brand in the UK, especially as the distinctively-styled generations two and three were built at Sunderland, but low profitability in small cars means the current five-door-only car is produced in India to keep prices competitive.

Sadly, though, it has not been at the races on styling and cabin design and quality; this generation arrived in 2010 but has so far failed to have the market impact of its two predecessors.

Admittedly, the downsizing trend has made the small-car sector one of the most unforgiving, with tough opposition at the value end, notably from the Skoda Fabia and Suzuki Swift and the Korean duo, the Hyundai i20 and Kia Rio.

The Micra has had a potential ace up its sleeve for a while, however, in the form of the 98PS (97bhp) supercharged DIG-S version of the 1.2-litre petrol engine that runs across the range. This delivers decent performance when required and, providing your right foot doesn't abuse that, also keeps fuel consumption sensible.

Combine this with the new, more purposeful, front and back, plus much slicker cabin, and Nissan can now take the fight to the opposition.

Other points already in its favour were excellent manoeuvrability for city use – it has the best turning circle in its class – and good visibility out of a classy and spacious cabin.

This now features a new centre console, upgraded materials and higher equipment levels, while the new £500 NissanConnect navigation and communication system comes with a 5.8-inch touchscreen display.

Prices are also attractive, starting from below the psychologically-important £10,000 mark for the entry-level Visia trim and yet still bringing equipment that cash-strapped young buyers want such as aux/USB connectivity and Bluetooth, six airbags and electric windows in the front as well as electronic stability control (ESP) – air-con is a £500 option, though.

Nevertheless, it's clear that most buyers will want mid-range Acenta spec (from £11,550), delivering more style and generous creature comforts including alloy wheels, climate control, 60/40-split folding rear seats, electric door mirrors, cruise control, auto lights, front fog lamps, height-adjustable driver's seat and leather-trimmed steering wheel with audio controls.

A five-speed manual gearbox is standard, whether you choose the non-aspirated 80PS (79bhp) version of the 1.2-litre engine or the supercharged DIG-S, but there is the £500 option of a CVT (continuously-variable transmission) auto box.

NISSAN MICRA

Price: from £9,950
Driving appeal: ★★★★
Image: ★★★
Space: ★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: Suzuki Swift

Micra given scope to attack

DOING THE ROUNDS: Nissan has decided its supermini the Micra was in desperate need of a new look and has remodelled the exterior and given the interior a much-needed spruce-up to make the car far more competitive in what it a very tough sector

DON'T LIKE

... the lack of engine choice, but the supercharged DIG-S is an impressive jack of all trades, so maybe Nissan is right to keep it simple.

NOT SURE

... the Micra can still mix it with its toughest rivals, but this hefty revision of the car must boost sales and its share of a hard-fought sector.

REALLY LIKE

... the grown-up looks; married with the perky performance of that DIG-S engine, they make the Micra a fun player rather than a figure of fun.

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA Octavia range: Urban 43.5 (6.5) to 61.4 (4.6), Extra Urban 61.4 (4.6) to 85.6 (3.3), Combined 53.3 (5.3) to 74.3 (3.8). CO_2 emissions 124 to 99g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

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2013 13 MICRA 1.2 ACENTA CONNECT DELIVERY MILEAGE, SAT NAV, AIR CON, UNIVERSAL SILVER	£12,330	£8,695
2013 13 MICRA 1.2 ACENTA CONNECT DELIVERY MILEAGE, SAT NAV, AIR CON, SAPHIRE BLACK	£12,330	£8,995

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2010 10 NOTE 1.6 N-TEC AUTOMATIC 1 OWNER, AUTOMATIC, SAT NAV, BLUE TOOTH, AIR CON, BLACK METALLIC, 7721 MILES		£8,495
2012 12 NOTE 1.4 N-TEC+ ALLOY WHEELS, CLIMATE AIR CON, SAT NAV WITH BLUETOOTH, GUN METALLIC, 8315 MILES		£9,995

JUKE		NOW
2012 12 JUKE 1.6 ACENTA 5 DOOR, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, BLUETOOTH, 1 OWNER, HAPTIC BLUE, 11813 MILES		£11,995
2011 11 JUKE 1.6 ACENTA SPORT GUN METALLIC WITH RED CONSOLE, ONLY 12,789 MILES, PRIVACY GLASS, SPORT ALLOY WHEELS, CRUISE CONTROL, USB INPUT		£11,995
2010 60 JUKE 1.6 TEKNA SAT NAV, REAR PARK CAMERA, CLIMATE AIR CON, FULL BLACK LEATHER, FORCE RED, 13815 MILES		£12,795
2011 61 JUKE 1.5DCI TEKNA 6 SPEED DIESEL, BLACK LEATHER WITH SILVER TRIM, SAT NAV, REAR CAMERA, PEARL BLACK, 25993 MILES		£13,495

LEAF	WAS	NOW
2012 62 LEAF EV EX-DEMO, 7250 MILES, SOLAR SPOILER, SAT NAV IN BLACK METALLIC	£17,995	£15,995

QASHQAI	WAS	NOW
2007 07 QASHQAI 2.0 ACENTA AUTOMATIC, AIR CON, BLUE TOOTH, AUTO LIGHTS, ALLOYS, FIRED IRON, 40271 MILES	£8,995	£7,995
2009 59 QASHQAI 1.5DCI ACENTA CLIMATE AIR CON, BLUE TOOTH, AUTO LIGHTS, ALLOY WHEELS, BLACK METALLIC, 28041 MILES		£10,495
2008 58 QASHQAI 2.0DCI ACENTA 4WD 4X4, 6 SPEED DIESEL. CLIMATE, BLUETOOTH, ALLOY WHEELS, BLACK METALLIC, 32062 MILES		£10,995
2011 11 QASHQAI 1.6 VISIA NEW SHAPE, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, CD PLAYER, 1 OWNER, ARCTIC WHITE, 26698 MILES		£10,995
2010 10 QASHQAI 1.6 VISIA NEW SHAPE, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, CD PLAYER, 1 OWNER, FADED DENIM, 18501 MILES		£10,995
2010 60 QASHQAI 1.5DCI VISIA 6 SPEED, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, CD SYSTEM, POWER WINDOWS, MINERAL GREY, 41210 MILES	£11,695	£10,695
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2010 10 QASHQAI+2 ACENTA 1.5 DCI DUAL CLIMATE CONTROL, 17 WHEELS, PRIVACY GLASS, AUTO LIGHTS AND WIPERS, BLADE SILVER, 30219 MILES		£12,995
2009 59 QASHQAI 2.0 DCI N-TEC 4WD ROOF RAILS, SAT NAV, REAR CAMERA, BLUETOOTH, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 4 WHEEL DRIVE, NIGHTSHADE, 50293 MILES		£12,995
2010 10 QASHQAI 1.5 DCI TEKNA 18" ALLOYS, BOSE AUDIO, HEATED LEATHER SEATS, GLASS ROOF, SAT NAV, BLUETOOTH, BLACK METALLIC, 35273 MILES		£13,495
2010 10 QASHQAI 2.0 TEKNA AUTOMATIC, GLASS PAN ROOF, SAT NAV, BLUETOOTH, 18 ALLOY WHEELS, CAFFE LATTE, 27221 MILES		£13,495
2010 60 QASHQAI 1.5DCI N-TEC 1 OWNER, PAN GLASS ROOF, SAT NAV, REAR CAMERA, 18 ALLOY WHEELS, WHITE, 26741 MILES		£13,995
2010 10 QASHQAI 1.5DCI N-TEC 1 OWNER, PAN GLASS ROOF, SAT NAV, REAR CAMERA, CAYMEN BLUE METALLIC, 11761 MILES		£13,995
2010 10 QASHQAI+2 1.5DCI N-TEC 7 SEATER, GLASS PAN ROOF, SAT NAV, BLUE TOOTH, CLIMATE, BLACK METALLIC, 29703 MILES	£14,695	£13,995
2012 62 QASHQAI 1.5DCI ACENTA CONNECT SAT NAV, CLIMATE AIR CON, BLUE TOOTH, AUTO LIGHTS, GUN METALLIC, 9633 MILES	£15,995	£13,995
2010 10 QASHQAI+2 2.0 CVT 4WD N-TEC AUTO, 4 WHEEL DRIVE, SAT NAV, REAR CAMERA, CAYMAN BLUE, 7 SEATS, ROOF RAILS 30,852 NILES		£15,995
2012 12 QASHQAI 1.5DCI N-TEC+ PAN ROOF, SAT NAV WITH 360 CAMERA, BLUE TOOTH, CLIMATE AIR CON, NIGHTSHADE, 7881 MILES	£16,995	£15,695
2012 12 QASHQAI 1.5DCI N-TEC+ PAN ROOF, SAT NAV WITH 360 CAMERA, BLUE TOOTH, CLIMATE AIR CON, NIGHTSHADE, 7441 MILES	£16,995	£15,695
2012 12 QASHQAI 1.5DCI N-TEC+ PAN ROOF, SAT NAV WITH 360 CAMERA, BLUE TOOTH, CLIMATE AIR CON, BLADE SILVER, 11717 MILES	£16,995	£15,695
2011 11 QASHQAI 2.0DCI TEKNA 4WD 4X4, AUTOMATIC DIESEL. GLASS ROOF, BLACK LEATHER BOSE SYSTEM, SAT NAV, MAGNETIC RED, 26041 MILES		£17,495
2012 12 QASHQAI 2.0 DCI 4WD AUTO N-TEC+ 360 CAMERA, 18" OYNX WHEELS, IN NIGHTSHADE, GLASS ROOF, ROOF RAILS, ONLY 9421 MILES		£19,995

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2012 12 GT-R TRACK EDITION 1 OWNER TRACK EDITION, RACE RECARO SEATS, 20 TRACK EDITION BLACK ALLOYS, METALLIC BLACK, 12671 MILES	£69,995	£59,950

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MOTORING

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Octavia – Skoda's new strategy?

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IN MUCH the same way that the VW Golf defines the modern-day Volkswagen brand, so the Octavia has come to epitomise Skoda.

But the third-generation car, launched this year, also seems to show where Skoda next wants to go; no longer content to be a value brand, it aims to be more mainstream or even mainstream/premium like VW itself.

If this seems an unlikely strategy, just look at how VW itself continually pressures upmarket sister brand Audi by bringing out ever more premium models.

Unlike some cosy 'badge engineering' entities of the past such as BMC and the US arm of General Motors, VAG (VW-Audi Group) clearly sees inter-brand rivalry as a force of good.

And that force has created an Octavia far classier than its predecessor.

Priced from £15,990 for the hatchback or from £16,790 for the estate as tested here, the newcomer has a crisper front end and side-profile, is 90mm longer and 45mm wider and has a 108mm-longer wheelbase to make the cabin larger, yet up to 102 kilos has been shed – the weight of one adult passenger.

It also changes position and target market within an expanded seven-strong Skoda range.

With the absurdly affordable and capacious all-new Skoda Rapid launched last year now tackling the Ford Focus and company, the slightly improved Octavia will tackle larger prey and the big volumes of the company-car sector.

Not that its bedrock support in the private market will mind much that its hero has become roomier and gained more tech and equipment while still offering Skoda value across familiar trim levels: S, SE, Elegance and the newly-announced vRS performance model.

Skoda has laboured hard over these labels to deliver added value, so the mid-range SE trim of the estate tested here, for instance, brings £2,220 of extra gear for just £1,200 more than the S and this includes a DAB (digital) radio in the sound system, smart alloys, driving-mode selection – Normal, Eco, Sport and Individual – dual-zone climate control and a smart infotainment touchscreen.

Even better, the car also gets some eco goodies thrown in, including stop-start. Its turbocharged 1.4TSI petrol engine also impressed me: the VW group's parsimonious diesels have contributed to the Octavia's rise, but the group has raised the stakes on petrol technology, too.

So the 140PS (138bhp) unit tested here has lively acceleration (0-62mph in 8.5 seconds) yet also has an official combined mpg of 53.3; to get similar performance from a diesel model, you need to buy the 2.0TDI SE (£20,940), which will also deliver an extra 10mpg, according to the official stats, but you'll need to cover a lot of extra miles for that economy to claw back the £1,750 paid for the car upfront, and that excludes the extra wear and tear on mechanicals and tyres from the heavier engine. And then there's the sheer enjoyment of the petrol-engine Octavia; the lighter engine makes better use of the sporty yet comfortable Golf-based chassis.

You will have to go diesel, though, if you want the all-wheel-drive Octavia versions (from £21,490).

Inside, the longer wheelbase and greater width are evident in the roomier cabin, while the total cargo area in seats-down mode exceeds that of the larger Ford Mondeo Estate and VW Passat.

Fixtures and fittings have Skoda's usual solidity and no-nonsense ergonomics, but I had a couple of comments during my week with the car that it felt gloomy and lacked flair. A fair point, but some manufacturers have tripped over the fine line between gloomy and tacky.

A TOUCH OF CLASS: Skoda looks to be aiming at the higher-end market with the third-generation Octavia being given slightly more room and an added trim level, the vRS, to take on those who traditionally dominate the company-car sector

SKODA OCTAVIA ESTATE SE 1.4TSI 140PS 1.5DCI 4X4: PRICE £19,190

Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£105 (zero year one)
Best rival:	Hyundai i40 Tourer

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First GEAR
MOTORING NEWS

Punto boasts sporty outlook

FIAT has upgraded its Punto supermini, but the Italian three-/five-door hatch still looks great value from £9,950.

Generous standard equipment, five low-emission engines and a simplified range are the highlights, including a new Sporting version (from £12,355) featuring body kit, gloss-black roof, sports suspension, 'Tarmac-finish' dashboard, chrome exhaust and 16-inch two-tone spoke alloys.

Honda 'most reliable' again

HONDA has been named most reliable car manufacturer in the annual What Car? and Warranty Direct Reliability Survey – the eighth year in a row.

The result is based on claims data, reviews and the opinions of more than 50,000 owners of Honda models like the Civic, pictured.

What Car? editor-in-chief Chas Hallett called it a "remarkable achievement".

Taking a peek at future Mini

AS the current Mini hatchback nears the end of its production life, we've been allowed a peek at what the third-generation car might look like.

The Mini Vision concept features the same proportions as Sir Alec Issigonis's 1960s original and the latter-day models of the BMW era, but the two-tone finish has echoes of the rival Daimler/Mercedes-Benz group's Smart brand.

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RENAULT

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Renault range are: Urban 27.2 (10.4)–78.5 (3.6); Extra Urban 45.6 (6.2)–94.2 (3); Combined 36.7 (7.7)–88.3 (3.2). The official CO_2 emissions for the range are 178–83g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO_2 may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

4+ Terms and exclusions apply. Warranty 100,000 miles. Service 48,000 miles. Visit renault.co.uk/4plus for details. Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Limited, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1AF. Subject to status, guarantees and indemnities may be required. Terms and conditions apply. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Isle of Man and Channel Islands). †Offer is equivalent to 20% VAT taken off the Manufacturer's Recommended Retail Price (MRRP) of the vehicle. This offer excludes the cost of options and accessories and is valid on the Renault Mégane and New Renault Scénic range (excluding the Special Edition Red Bull) when ordered between 22 July–30 September 2013. For finance, conditions apply. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Isle of Man and Channel Islands) to apply for finance. **1 year's insurance included is available to Renault Finance customers in the UK (excluding Isle of Man, Channel Islands and Northern Ireland) on any New Renault Clio Expression+ and New Renault Clio Dynamique MediaNav when ordered by 30 September 2013. Insurance underwriter shall be determined by RCI Financial Services Limited from time to time. Visit renault.co.uk/insurance for full terms and conditions. *Rental stated is for Renault Lease. Comparable payments are available on our personal contract purchase product – ask your dealer for details. If you choose Renault Lease then you will not own the car. When you have paid the final rental at the end of the contract, you can keep using the car and pay an annual rental equivalent to one monthly rental. Typical example: New Renault Clio Dynamique MediaNav, advance rental **£2000 inc VAT** followed by 48 monthly rentals of **£179 inc VAT**, final rental **£4583 inc VAT**. A finance facility fee of £149 is payable with the advance rental. Available at participating dealers only. Offers cannot be used in conjunction with other schemes or finance offers. Please check with your local dealer for details. Offers available to retail customers only. Cars shown may have optional metallic paint, available at an additional £495. ‡Offer is for a £750 cheque from the dealer to the purchaser of a new Mégane (excluding the Mégane Renaultsport Red Bull RB8 Limited Edition), Scénic or selected Clio models (excludes Clio Expression) when ordered and registered before 30 September 2013. Offer excludes Twingo, ZE range and Captur range.

SEAT

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The Ibiza SC 1.4 Toca – Solutions representative example based on 10,000 miles per annum^^

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*Model shown is a Mii 3dr 1.0 60PS Toca in optional White paint at £175 RRP. **4.4p per mile excess mileage charges apply. Further charges may be payable if vehicle is returned.^Model shown is an Ibiza SC 1.4 85PS Toca in Emoción Red. ^^5.8p per mile excess mileage charges apply. Further charges may be payable if vehicle is returned.1Payable with first payment. 2Payable with optional final payment. Retail sales only. Indemnities may be required. Subject to vehicle availability. Subject to status. Available to over 18s in the UK from participating dealers only. SEAT Finance, Freepost SEAT Finance. †One year's free insurance available from SEAT Insurance on all Mii derivatives for drivers over 21 years, other eligibility criteria apply, UK only excludes Northern Ireland. Go to www.insurewithseat.co.uk/mii for full terms and conditions. SEAT Insurance Motor Insurance is sold, underwritten and administered by Allianz Insurance plc.Subject to each model specification and cost option fitment. Pricing and finance valid from 1st July 2013 to 30th September 2013. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time.

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Duties include sorting deliveries, pricing and displaying goods, customer service and managing the banking and cash handling in the manager's absence. A temporary position with a 12 month contract which is open to review and possible extension.

Both positions are for 37 ½ hours a week to be worked Monday to Sunday 5 out of 7 days. Must be flexible to the needs of the business.

We offer a supportive working environment, with on-going training and personal development. Stakeholder pension scheme available.

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Section 123 (2A) Local Government Acts 1972
Disposal of land forming part of an Open Space

Notice is hereby given that Swale Borough Council intends to dispose of the following plots of land by granting a Lease for each plot of land for the purposes of playing football and other similar sporting recreational activities.

- Festival Playing Field, New Road, Sheerness, Kent measuring approximately 2.5 Hectares (6.2 Acres)
- Seager Road Sports Ground, Seager Road, Sheerness, Kent measuring approximately 3.2 Hectares (7.9 Acres)
- Leysdown Football Pitch, Shellness Road, Leysdown, Kent measuring approximately 0.8 Hectares (2.0 Acres)

The Freehold ownership for each plot of land will be retained by Swale Borough Council and the land shall remain open for the use of the public as open space and for recreational use.

A plan showing each of the areas of land edged red can be inspected at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT during normal office hours.

Any objection to the disposal of the plots of land by the grant of a Lease should be addressed to the Head of Legal Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT (Ref. CJS/S003402/3403) within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Mr J Scarborough **Dated: 24 July 2013**
Head of Legal Partnership
Mid Kent Legal Services
Swale Borough Council
Swale House East Street
Sittingbourne Kent ME10 3HT

Application of premises licence

Notice is hereby given that Antony J Williams of Musket Brewery LTD, Loddington Farm, Loddington Lane, Linton, Maidstone, Kent ME17 5AJ has applied for a Premises Licence.

The Register of Record of Application can be viewed during office hours at Maidstone Borough Council Licensing Office, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ or on our email address; http://pa.sevenoaks.gov.uk/online-licensing/

Objections must be made before the 6th September 2013

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PLANNING

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//13/01372/FUL: 106 Nelson Road, Whitstable, CT5 1DZ Demolition of existing rear single-storey extension, erection of replacement pitched roof extension, with rooflights and the insertion of dormer in rear elevation loft roof and installation of rooflights. **Applicant: Mrs K Kerwin** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/01425/FUL: Unit 22 Woolton Farm, Bekesbourne Lane, Littlebourne, CT4 5EA Installation of an extractor system and exterior ventilation box. **Applicant: Mr Simon Chipperfield** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/01430/FUL: Hotel Continental, 29 Beach Walk, Whitstable, CT5 2BP Replacement of 16 existing timber single casement vertical sliding windows with high quality uPVC vertical sliding windows to replicate existing profiles, replacement of existing internal timber window boards, liners and architraves with new timber to match originals. Replacement of four French doors with toplights, to match profile of existing including an equal sight line toplight. Replacement of existing internal timber threshold, liners and architraves with new timber to match the originals. **Applicant: Mills Property Renovations** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/01437/FUL: 62 Borstal Hill, Whitstable, CT5 4NA Change of use of public house to dwelling incorporating removal of bar and insulation of door to cellar. No alterations will be made to amend the character or appearance of the external surfaces or internally. **Applicant: PMC Ltd** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.

CA//13/01438/LB: 62 Borstal Hill, Whitstable, CT5 4NA Change of use of public house to dwelling incorporating removal of bar and insulation of door to cellar. No alterations will be made to amend the character or appearance of the external surfaces or internally. **Applicant: PMC Ltd** Reason: Work to a listed building.

CA//13/01440/ADV: 24 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2AY Removal of existing signage and installation of replacement hanging sign, archway panel and menu board with new corporate image. **Applicant: Gondola Group Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/01443/FUL: 30 Cossington Road, Canterbury, CT1 3HU Single-storey rear extension. **Applicant: Ms A Seller** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/01448/FUL: Land rear of 12-16 Dover Street, Canterbury Proposed development of five mews cottages. **Applicant: Rhodaus Property Co Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/01449/FUL: St Johns House, Wickham Lane, Ickham, CT3 1RD Proposed new entrance gates, approached from shared access from Wickham Lane, to match existing fence. **Applicant: Mr George Crosland** Reason: Setting listed building in conservation area.

CA//13/01455/FUL: 18 Abbots Place, Canterbury, CT1 2AH Proposed new dormer window to rear elevation. **Applicant: Mr A De-Courcy** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA//13/01467/LB: 68 Stour Street, Canterbury, CT1 2NZ Proposed replacement windows. **Applicant: Mr R Cochrane** Reason: Work to a listed building.

CA//13/01472/FUL: Busheyfields Nursery, Busheyfields Road, Herne, CT6 7LJ Demolition of existing polytunnel and erection of an aquatics centre and associated polytunnel. **Applicant: Grovewell Canterbury Ltd** Reason: Major development.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 2 September 2013.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 9 August 2013

PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/02118/FUL Springhill Barn Standen Street, Benenden
- Proposed 4 bay garage, landscaping details and amendment to the dwelling curtilage for the barn (LB)

13/02106/HOUSE Weirleigh Gedges Hill, Brenchley
- Replacement detached garage (LB)

13/02117/FULMJ Land North Of Railway Line Whetsted Road, Capel
- Part change of use of land for the keeping of horses; Erection of detached five bay stable block with tack room / feed store; Erection of detached agricultural building for storage of hay and equipment (MAJOR)

13/01905/HOUSE Golford Gate Tenterden Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Two storey extension, front porch and associated minor amendments (LB)

13/01908/LBC Golford Gate Tenterden Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Listed Building Consent: Two storey rear/side extension to provide an entrance lobby and enlarged dining room to ground floor, with extension of bed 1, plus small additional bedroom/study to first floor of this addition. Front porch over existing front door entrance (LB)

13/02126/FUL Sissinghurst Village Hall The Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Formation of new external door at rear of building and construction of a stepped and ramped access to parish hall garden (CA) (LB)

13/02173/HOUSE Earlswood Earls Road, Culverden
- Alterations to planning permission TW/12/03564 - single storey rear extension. Five velux windows to main roof south and north elevation. Three velux windows to ground floor roof south elevation. Move wood burning stove to north east elevation (CA)

13/02181/FUL Lakeview Bishops Down Park Road, Culverden
- Demolition of existing block of flats. Erection of 3 no. 3-bed duplex apartments, 2 no. 2-bed apartments, 2 no. 1-bed apartments and 2 no. 3-bed penthouse apartments (CA)

13/02200/LBC 60 London Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Extension of Time - Listed Building Consent - Addition of rear verandah and new external steps and balustrading (Listed Building Consent TW/10/00552 refers) (LB)

13/02102/FULMJ Barnlea Coldharbour Lane, Frittenden
- Conversion of integral garage to residential with new window, replace single glazed windows with double glazed windows, installation of aga flue, erection of garage, erection of American barn with access track, change of use of fields to equestrian use (MAJOR)

13/02185/HOUSE Delmonden Grange Delmonden Lane, Hawkhurst
- Extension of Time - Two storey rear extension (TW/10/02133/FUL refers) (LB)

13/01182/HOUSE 1 Station Cottages Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden
- Two-storey side extension (LB)

13/01880/HOUSE 1 Furnace Avenue Lamberhurst, Lamberhurst
- Minor material amendment in relation to TW/13/00043/HOUSE part demolition of existing and construction of 2 storey side extension - Amend rear hip roof and dormer to half gable end with window with half hip barn end (CA)

13/02116/HOUSE 3 Mascalls Park Paddock Wood, Paddock Wood
- Proposed first floor front extension, two storey side extension and revision to single storey side extension and ommision of garage (revision to an existing planning approval) (LB)

13/01773/FUL 50B Grove Hill Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park
- Retrospective: Enlarge previously approved windows and raise driveway to level (CA)

13/02088/FUL Barclays Bank 73 - 75 Calverley Road, Park
- Change of use of front ground floor from A2 (financial) to A1 (retail), and rear ground floor from A2 (financial) to B1 (office) (CA) (LB)

13/02110/FUL The Water Tower Pembury Road, Park
- Removal of 6 No. antennas and their replacement with 9 No. new antennas on the roof of the water tower, the installation of additional radio equipment within the existing internal room and redevelopment works ancillary thereto (MAST)

13/02123/FULMJ Land South Of Micro Ready Mix Concrete Ltd North Farm Lane, Sherwood
- Extension of Time: Redevelopment to provide 13 industrial units comprising a mix of B1(c), B2 and B8 uses (TW/10/01239/FULMJ) (MAJOR)

13/02101/HOUSE Manor House Speldhurst Hill, Speldhurst
- Single storey side extension; conversion of existing double garage to playroom; demolition of existing conservatory. Internal alterations to ground and first floor and re-roofing of existing single storey roofs and associated external works (CA) (LB)

13/02105/LBC Manor House Speldhurst Hill, Speldhurst
- Listed building consent - Single storey side extension; conversion of existing double garage to playroom; demolition of existing conservatory. Internal alterations to ground and first floor and re-roofing of existing single storey roofs and associated external works (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 10 August 2013

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING APPLICATIONS
LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS
CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/13/00605 Section 73 application to vary condition 2 of planning permission DOV/11/00361 (erection of a detached bungalow and garage (existing barn to be demolished)) to allow increase in roof height and changes to design
55 Westcourt Lane, Shepherdswell, Dover, CT15 7PU **ARW**

DOV/13/00557 Erection of single storey side extensions, first floor rear extension; construction of terraces, roof and underground garage; creation of vehicular access, associated alterations and excavation works (amended plans)
Granville House, 35 Granville Road, St. Margaret's Bay, Dover, CT15 6DS **CON**

DOV/13/00560 Erection of a single storey rear and side extension (existing extension to be demolished)
8 Heights Terrace, Western Heights, Dover, CT17 9DU **CON**

DOV/13/00565 Erection of a single storey side extension
1 Church Farm Mews, The Street, East Langdon, Dover, CT15 5FE **CON**

DOV/13/00572 Erection of porch canopy
Cedar House, Sandown Road, Sandwich, CT13 9NT **CON**

DOV/13/00585 Creation of internal lobby
St Crispin P H, The Street, Worth, Deal, CT14 0DF **LCN**

DOV/13/00609 Erection of single storey rear conservatory (existing conservatory to be demolished)
17 St Margarets Road, St. Margaret's Bay, Dover, CT15 6EQ **CON**

DOV/13/00614 Installation of transmission dish
Arqiva Transmitter Station, Swingate, St. Margarets, Dover, CT15 5DL **LBC**

DOV/13/00615 Installation of transmission dish
Arqiva Transmitter Station, Swingate, St. Margarets, Dover, CT15 5DL **LBC**

DOV/13/00490 Conversion of garage to habitable room, erection of a first floor rear roof extension, single storey front extension with roof terrace and balcony. Insertion of rooflights to front and rear roofslope together with the insertion of a second floor side window and creation of car parking
1 Court Lodge, Church Lane, Deal, CT14 9WA **ARW**

DOV/13/00530 RE-ADVERTISEMENT: Outline application for residential development
Land (beyond) to the west of Strathfleet, Victoria Road, Kingsdown, Deal, CT14 8DY **ARW**

DOV/13/00577 Erection of a summer house
20 North Road, Kingsdown, Deal, CT14 8AG **CON**

DOV/13/00597 Renewal of application DOV/10/00393 erection of a mansard roof to incorporate 6 self-contained 1 bed flats
Grosvenor Mansions, Queen Street, Deal **CON**

DOV/13/00541 Erection of a detached garage and store (existing garage and store to be demolished)
Orchard Lea, The Street, Staple, Canterbury, CT3 1LN **ARW**

Reason for Advert Codes:-
ARW - Affects a Public Right of Way **LBC** - The proposal affects a Listed Building
LCN - Listed Building in a Conservation Area **CON** - Within Conservation Area

Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent **within 21 days** marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.

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PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/13/0603/S - 592, LOOSE ROAD, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9UW - An application for listed building consent for replacement ground floor windows having wooden frames and cills and aluminium windows. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0982/S - THE LITTLE BARN, OAST COURT, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6JY - Replacement of existing softwood timber windows with rosewood upvc including replacement of lounge window and door with folding doors. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/1021/S - HAVEN FARM, NORTH STREET, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3HS - Application to remove conditions 1, 2 and 3 of application MA/06/0085 and to vary condition 5 of MA/06/0085 to 'no retail sales to the public shall be carried out outside of the hours of 08:00-18:00 Mondays to Saturdays and between 10:00 and 16:00 on Sundays, Bank or Public Holidays' as shown on application form received 05/06/13 & applicant's e-mail received 14/06/13. **Reason: 9**

MA/13/1071/N - BREWERS HOUSE, ASHFORD ROAD, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4NN - Listed building consent for the erection of a replacement roof lantern. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1257/N - 55-57, WEEK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1QU - An application for listed building consent for the installation of a projecting sign. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1260/N - VALLEY PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL, HUNTSMAN LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5DT - The construction of a new 3G sports pitch with floodlighting; 4 new tennis courts; the upgrading and extension of existing pedestrian access ways from the main school site; the refurbishment of existing tennis courts; and associated fencing. **Reason: 6**

MA/13/1265/N - OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, THURNHAM LANE, THURNHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4PL - Conversion and extension of the 'Old School House' to provide two dwellings and erection of a detached dwelling with double garage. **Reason: 9**

MA/13/1283/N - KNOWLE HILL GAME FARM, KNOWLE HILL, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1ES - Change of use of land for the erection of two log Cabins for use as holiday accommodation and accommodation for seasonal workers. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1287/N - KNOWLE HILL FARM, KNOWLE HILL, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1ES - An application for listed building consent for demolition of a greenhouse. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1289/S - 71, HIGH STREET, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9QA - An application for listed building consent for alterations and refurbishment including replacement of joinery, introduction of 3No. roof lights to rear elevation, replacement of staircase and rearrangement of internal openings/walls, and the erection of a detached garage building. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1293/S - BRIDGEHURST OAST, HOWLAND ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9EP - Two storey extension and lobby to existing oast house with alterations to existing single storey extension. Single storey education/activity room and alterations to existing outbuildings to form garages and store. Demolition of existing garages and erection of single storey home office and mower store. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1297/S - 71, HIGH STREET, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9QA - Erection of detached garage building. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/1303/N - 1, OAK CROFT, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4GF - Installation of timber double doors to replace existing window to rear elevation. **Reason: 2**

MA/13/1310/N - TONGS MEADOW, WEST STREET, HARRIETSHAM, KENT - Erection of 106 dwellings (including 40% affordable homes), area of public open space, associated landscaping, provision of new access from West Street and associated works. **Reason: 1, 6, 7, 9**

MA/13/1314/S - ARCHBISHOP COURTENAY SCHOOL, CHURCH ROAD, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6QY - Change of use and conversion to provide 8 residential dwellings with associated demolition, parking and landscaping. **Reason: 9**

MA/13/1332/N - LAND R/O OLD HARBOURLAND, BOXLEY ROAD, BOXLEY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3DN - Change of use of land and formation of new access from allotment access road to Sandy Lane to serve existing tourist accommodation. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:

1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **25th August 2013**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 11th August 2013.

Folkestone

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/0799/SH# - The Guildhall 13 High Street Lydd Romney Marsh Kent - Installation of 2 wall mounted and 2 pole mounted CCTV cameras,

Y13/0736/SH+ - Nickolls Quarry Dymchurch Road Hythe Kent CT21 4NE - Reserved matters application relating to access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for Phase 1 comprising 192 dwellings being details pursuant to outline planning permission Y06/1079/SH for mixed use residential development.

Y13/0429/SH - Flat B 100 Bouverie Road West Folkestone Kent CT20 2PP - Installation of replacement windows.

Y13/0786/SH* - Old Rectory Forge Hill Acrise Folkestone Kent - Erection of single-storey dwelling for holiday let accommodation use, following demolition of existing stable/garage building, and provision of associated garden area.

Y13/0775/SH+ - 121 High Street Hythe Kent CT21 5JJ - Listed building consent for internal alterations in connection with conversion of building to a self contained first floor flat and a ground floor retail unit.

Y07/1566/SH - Land Adjoining Pumping Station Dymchurch Road St Marys Bay Kent - Erection of 85 dwellings and formation of new access

Y13/0463/SH+ - Kent Cottage 19 Chapel Street Hythe Kent CT21 5BE - Erection of a three storey building comprising of 4 ground floor office units (Class B1) and 4 one bedroom flats in the upper floors, following demolition of the existing building.

Y13/0400/SH - Land Opposite Cirilla Radnor Cliff Crescent Folkestone Kent - Erection of a detached dwelling over two levels, with associated access, parking and retaining walls

Y13/0781/SH# - 15 New Street Lydd Romney Marsh Kent TN29 9DJ - Listed building consent for internal alterations.

Y13/0792/SH# - 79 High Street New Romney Kent TN28 8AZ - Installation of an ATM

Y13/0738/SH - Royal Norfolk Hotel 7 Sandgate High Street Sandgate Folkestone Kent - Retrospective application for erection of single-storey lean-to addition to rear to provide covered smoking area to public house/hotel.

Y13/0805/SH+ - Pilgrim Cottage Church Road Hythe Kent CT21 5DP - Felling of a Yew tree situated within a conservation area

Y13/0732/SH - 7 North Road Hythe Kent CT21 5UF - Erection of single storey front and rear extensions, together with installation of a rear dormer in connection with loft conversion.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/GR/0237/2013 - Proposed development at Unit 4, Apex Business Park, Queens Farm Road, Shorne, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 3HU

R S Skips Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for erection of a permanent single-storey office building at the existing waste transfer station to replace Portakabin accommodation.

KCC/GR/0240/2013 - Proposed development at Church Path Pit, Northfleet Works, The Shore, Northfleet, Kent, DA11 9AN

Lafarge Cement UK is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for engineering operations comprising ground works to create a development platform and a temporary waste handling facility for excavated material and other ancillary works.

You may view both these applications at Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1AU.

KCC/SH/0236/2013 - Proposed development at Hope Farm, Crete Road East, Hawkinge, Folkestone, Kent, CT18 7EG

Hope Farm Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for Section 73 application to amend condition 9 of planning permission SH/09/362 to source green waste from anywhere within the East Kent Waste Partnership area.

You may view this application at Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough/District Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 11 August 2013

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 26 AUGUST 2013.

SW/13/0905:
Erect a greenhouse - Borden Hall, Wises Lane, BORDEN; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0908:
Construction of a new agricultural farm building for the storage of straw, hay, fertilizer and farm machinery - Court Lodge Farm, Church Road, OARE; **REASON 2**

SW/13/0924 & SW/13/0925:
Extension at South end-opening up of window to form access to new room. Separation of two halves of building. Formation of new bathroom and window on East side. New ground floor window to west elevation - Saffery Farm House, Owens Court Road, SELLING; **REASON 2**

SW/13/0926 & SW/13/0927:
Extension at north end. Reinstatement of front door/original staircase and doorway under tie beam. New ground floor opening between front & back rooms at north end. Removal of ground floor bathroom. Additional smaller bathroom on first floor with windows to east elevation to this and bedroom - Saffery Farm Cottage, Owens Court Road, SELLING; **REASON 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

To place your notice here, call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817056

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

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PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT
FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH ER303 AT SHEPHERDSWELL)
DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2013

The above Order was made on 19th July 2013 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding a public footpath with a width of 1.2 metres which commences on Eythorne Road at NGR TR 2584 4805 (point A on the Order plan) where there are 4 steps and runs generally south-south-east for approximately 80 metres to its connection with Church Hill at NGR TR 2587 4798 (point B on the Order plan). (Between points A-B on the Order plan).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Dover District Council, The Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PG or at the Kent County Council, PROW & Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there at the price of £5.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to Mrs Maria McLauchlan at the Kent County Council (address as below) no later than 25th September 2013. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State (or part of it if the Authority has by Notice to the Secretary of State so elected under paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) may itself confirm the Order (or that part of the Order). If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment (in whole or in part), any representations or objections which have been duly made and not been withdrawn will be sent with it.

Public Rights of Way & Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XX

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH MT21/MU5 IN THE PARISHES OF HILDENBOROUGH AND TONBRIDGE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH MT21/MU5

(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath MT21/MU5, between its junction with Public Bridleway MT50 (Horns Lodge Lane) and its junction with Elmshurst Gardens from the 5th August 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before December 2013.

The path is to be closed because works are planned near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Michele Snoding

Contact Centre no. 0845 3450210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

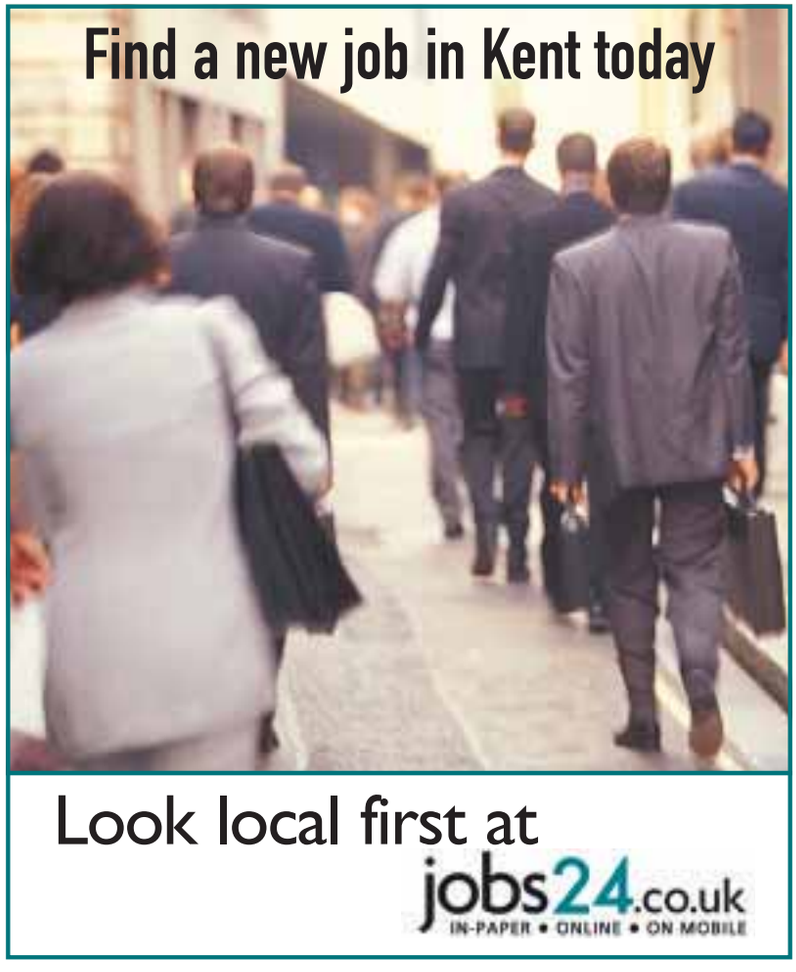
Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XX

Dated: 11th August 2013

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk



HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS – CANTERBURY AREA

SHEPHERD'S CLOSE ROAD, PATRIXBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of telegraph pole replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Shepherd's Close Road, Patrixbourne.

Shepherd's Close Road will be closed westwards from the junction with Carters Lane towards Keeper's Hill.

The closures are planned from 29 August 2013 for up to 3 days between 09:30 hours to 15:30 hours each day.

The alternative route is via Keeper's Hill, The Street, Station Road, Chalkpit Hill and Carters Road.

HIGHWAYS – DARTFORD AREA

COMMON LANE WILMINGTON ACADEMY DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a gas disconnection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Broad Lane (back of Wilmington Academy) Dartford, on or after 12th August 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed on Broad Lane at the back of Wilmington Academy)

There will be no access for through traffic at this point.

The alternative route is via Leyton Cross Roads right into Oakfield Lane and right into Common Lane.

HOLMESDALE HILL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because BT require safe access to overhead neworks cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Holmesdale Hill opposite Tree Tops, on or after 30th August 2013 for up to 1 Day between the hours of 09.30am and 15.30pm or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Paddock Close, East Hill and Holmesdale Road.

OAKWOOD RISE LONGFIELD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a connection onto an existing main, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic one way on Oakwood Rise Longfield, (junction of Hartley Road) on or after 12th August 2013 for up to 12 days or until the works have been completed.

The restrictions will be as follows.

1. Exit only from Oakwood Rose onto Hartley Road
2. No Left or right turn from Hartley Road into Oakwood Rise

The restrictions will be at the junction of Oakwood rise and Hartley Road.

HIGHWAYS – DOVER AREA

OLD PARK HILL, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC

(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a sewer connection for a new development, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Old Park Hill, Dover.

Old Park Hill will be closed to the north of the junction with Weavers Way.

The closure is planned to commence from 12 August 2013 for up to 3 weeks.

There is no suitable alternative route, and local arrangements are in place to maintain essential access.

RAMSGATE ROAD, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER AUGUST 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the demolition of pedestrian bridges as part of the redevelopment of Discovery Park, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to prohibit through traffic on Ramsgate Road, Sandwich.

Ramsgate Road will be closed in the vicinity of Discovery Park (formerly Pfizer) with no through access between Monks Way and A256 Sandwich Bypass. Local access will remain from either direction up to the point of closure.

Closures are planned for the 2 weekends starting Friday 31 August and Friday 6 September 2013.

Both closures will be from Friday evening at 18:00 hours through until the following Monday at 06:00 hours.

If adverse weather conditions or other issues prevent works going ahead on the above dates, the closures will be deferred to one or both of the following weekends (13 & 20 September), for the same times.

The alternative through route is via Monks Way, A256 Sandwich Bypass and Ramsgate Road.

Please note these closures were initially planned for May 2013.

HIGHWAYS – GRAVESHAM AREA

WHITEHILL ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRA FFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRA FFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRI CTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Whitehill Road, on or after 15th August 2013 for up to 1 day between the hours of 09.30 and 15.30 or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction of Cheyne Walk south for 320 meters.

The alternative route is via for northbound traffic Harvel Road and A227 southbound to use Foxendown Lane/ Brimstone Hill/ Priestwood Road.

HIGHWAYS – MAIDSTONE AREA

BUSBRIDGE ROAD, LOOSE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of verge protection works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Busbridge Road, Loose, on or after 12 August 2013 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Stockett Lane to Well Street.

The alternative route is via Well Street, Forstal Lane, New Cut, Stockett Lane.

FIVE OAK LANE, STAPLEHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new water main, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Five Oak Lane, Staplehurst, on or after 26 August 2013 for up to 25 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Wilden Park Road to Pinnock Lane.

The alternative route is via Wilden Park Road, Pagehurst Road, Marden Road, A229 High Street, Pinnock Lane.

HORSESHOES LANE, LANGLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to joint a high voltage cable and install a new gas service, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Horseshoes Lane, Langley, on or after 12 August 2013 for up to 6 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from A274 Sutton Road to Heath Road.

The alternative route is via A274 Sutton Road, B2163 Leeds Road, Heath Road.

RECTORY LANE, BARMING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a new electric supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Rectory Lane, Barming, on or after 27 August 2013 for up to 15 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Glebe Lane to outside number 10.

The alternative route is via Glebe Lane, Farleigh Lane, Rectory Lane.

HIGHWAYS – SEVENOAKS AREA

BAYLEYS HILL, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a new gas supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bayleys Hill, Sevenoaks, on or after 27th August 2013 for up to 7 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of Bowzell Road and White House Road and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Bowzell Road, Long Barn Road, Hubbards Hill, Gracious Lane, White House Road and vice versa.

BOWER LANE, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the provision of a new BT telegraph pole for new customer connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bower Lane, Shoreham on or after 16th August 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Romney Street and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is: via Bower Lane, Birchin Cross Road, Rowdow. Pilgrims Way East, A225 Shoreham Road, Station Road, A225 Bower Lane and vice versa.

BRADBOURNE ROAD, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a mobile crane to lift modular units into Sevenoaks Primary School, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bradbourne Road, Sevenoaks, on or after 8th August for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Bradbourne Park Road and Camden Road and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Bradbourne Park Road, Mount Harry Road, St Johns Hill and Bradbourne Road.

BRITTAINS LANE, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of excavating in the road for a new electrical connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Brittains Lane, Sevenoaks, on or after 12th August 2013 for up to 7 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of Julians Way and Cross Keys Close and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Brittains Lane, London Road A224, High Street, Oak Lane, Brittains Lane.

HOLMESDALE HILL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of allowing BT Safe access to overhead nework for cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Holmesdale Hill , on or after 30th August 2013 for up to 1 Day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed Opposite Tree Tops and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Paddock Close, East Hill and Holmesdale Road.

IDE HILL ROAD, CHIDDINGSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of excavation and placing of 200mm steel oil pipeline and overlaying concrete protection slabs across Ide Hill Road and reinstating the surface of the HAUC standard, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ide Hill Road, Chiddingstone, on or after 15th August 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Winkhurst Farm and Hilders Farm and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Ide Hill Road, B2042 Green

Lane, B2027 Clinton Lane and vice versa.

SCHOOL LANE, SEAL, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of new service to pole bracket, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on School Lane, Seal, Sevenoaks, on or after 12 August 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed opposite number 1 School Lane and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: A25 High Street, Seal Road, A225 Otford Road, Sevenoaks Road, Station Road, Pilgrims Way and Childsbridge Lane.

SWAFFIELD ROAD, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Swaffield Road, Sevenoaks, on or after 13th August 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed each junction with Wickenden Road and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: from northern end east, follow the road round two bends to reach southern junction. The route when approaching from the southern part of Wickenden Road is the same but reversed.

VARIOUS ROADS, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a programme of carriageway surface treatment works to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to restrict traffic on various roads in Sevenoaks, as shown below.

The Order will become effective on or after 28TH Aug 2013 for up to 18 months, or until the works have been completed.

The planned dates and times for each road closure or restriction are shown below in the Schedule listed.

Planned dates will be indicated by signage displayed on site 7 days in advance. Road closures and other restrictions will be in effect when the appropriate signage and barriers are in place.

Every effort will be made to keep to the schedule shown below. Some minor modifications may be made to dates and duration of works, to be advised once known.

Adverse weather conditions may prevent some works being carried out on the planned dates.

Roads that are missed will be re-scheduled, as advised locally and signposted on site.

Generally within seven days of completing the works the road markings will be reinstated and the ironworks (road drain covers, manhole covers, etc) will adjusted to suit the new surface, if necessary.

SCHEDULE

SEVENOAKS MICROSURFACING

ST. BOTOLPH'S ROAD (Service Road) and THE VINE – Road closed between A225 Dartford Road and St. Botolph's Road (junction with Pound Lane).

28th Aug 2013 08:30hrs to 17:30hrs.

Alternative route via A225 Dartford Road, Pembroke Road, Tubs Hill, St. Botolph's Road.

BIRCHIN CROSS ROAD/BOWER LANE, SHOREHAM – Road closed between Clarkes Green Road and Bower Lane junction with Romney Street.

31st Aug to 1st Sept 2013 09:00hrs to 17:30hrs

Alternative route via Birchin Cross Road, Rowdow Lane, Pilgrims Way East, A225 Shoreham Road, Station Road and Bower Lane. (And vice versa)

CHELSFIELD LANE/SHOREHAM LANE, SHOREHAM – Road

closed between Hewitts Road and Shacklands Road.

2nd Sept to 3rd Sept 2013 08:30hrs to 17:30hrs

Alternative route via Hewitts Road, A224 Orpington-By-Pass and Shacklands Road. (And vice versa)

SPOUT LANE/B269 POOTINGS ROAD, WESTERHAM – Road closed between B2026 Main Road and Coakham Farm.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 0300 333 5539 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

4th Sept to 5th Sept 2013 09:00hrs to 17:30hrs

Alternative route via B2026 Main Road, Swan Lane, B2027 Four Elms Road and B269 Pootings Road. (And vice versa)

HONEY POT LANE/LITTLE BROWNS LANE, EDENBRIDGE – Road closed between stream o/s Little Browns Farm and eastwards to east side of double bends.

6th Sept 2013 08:30hrs to 17:30hrs

Alternative route via Little Browns Lane, Crouch House Road, Stangrove Road, B2026 Mont St. Aignan Way, Station Road, Main Road, Hole Lane, Monks Lane and Honey Pot Lane.

STATION ROAD, BLOWERS HILL AND BUCKHURST LANE, COWDEN – Road closed between B2026 Hartfield Road and Cowden Pound Road.

9th Sept to 11th Sept 2013 09:00hrs to 17:00hrs

Alternative route via B2026 Hartfield Road, Cowden Pound Road, Buckhurst and Cowden Pound Road. (And vice versa)

HIGHWAYS – SHEPWAY AREA

BECKET'S LEVEL CROSSING, BROOKLAND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Becket's Level Crossing, Brookland, Romney Marsh.

Beckett Road (Fairfield Road), Brookland will be closed at the level crossing.

The closures are for the 3 nights of Tuesday 27, Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 August from 23:00 hours through until 06:00 hours each night

The alternative route is via Beckett Road, A259 Rye Road, Brookland By-pass, Straight Lane, Brenzett Corner, B2080 Rhee Wall, Rhee Wall Road, Station Road and Beckett Road.

WILDAGE & MADAM'S BOTTOM, STELLING MINNIS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow safe access to the overhead cable network to restore a customer phone service, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Wildage & Madam's Bottom, Stelling Minnis.

The road will be closed between Forest View Farm and Wildage Farm.

The closure is planned to commence from 14 August 2013 for up to 2 days, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours each day.

The alternative route is via South Lodge Road, Fishers Lane and Fir Tree Hill.

HIGHWAYS – SWALE AREA

NEW ROAD, SHEERNESS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of major carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of New Road, Sheerness.

New Road will be closed between the junctions with Queen's Way and Medway Road.

The closures are planned to commence from Monday 12 August 2013 for up to 3 nights, between 09:00 hours through until 02:00 hours each night.

The alternative route is via Coats Avenue, Hawthorn Avenue, St George's Avenue and Medway Road.

HIGHWAYS – THANET AREA

NORTHDOWN WAY, MARGATE & HARRISON ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway and drainage repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on sections of Northdown Way, Margate and Harrison Road, Ramsgate, as shown below

NORTHDOWN WAY, MARGATE will be closed between the junctions with St Anthony's Way and Millmead Road

27 August for up to 4 days, between 08:00 hours and 16:00 hours each day

The alternative route is via Millmead Road, Millmead Avenue, Northdown Park Road and Northdown Way.

HARRISON ROAD, RAMSGATE will be closed between the junctions with Florence Road and Vale Square

30 August for 1 day, 08:00 hours to 17:00 hours

The alternative route is via Florence Road, Cannonbury Road, West Cliff Road, Crescent Road and Vale Square

HIGHWAYS – TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

HATHAM GREEN LANE, STANSTED (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new water supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hatham Green Lane, Stansted, on or after 27 August 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from outside Parsonage Farm to The White Bungalow.

The alternative route is via Ash Lane, South Ash Road, Pease Hill, Malthouse Road, Plaxdale Green Road.

MILL STREET, SNODLAND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of re-railing the level crossing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mill Street, Snodland, on or after 15 August 2013 for up to 1 night between 22.45hrs and 05.45hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the level crossing.

SCHOOL LANE, PLAXTOL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to relay a new cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on School Lane, Plaxtol, on or after 12 August 2013 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Old School Cottage to Chapel House.

The alternative route is via The Street, Long Mill Lane, Dunk's Green Road, Hamptons Road, School Lane.

WEST STREET, WEST MALLING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to clear blockages on a BT duct, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting

through traffic on West Street, West Malling, on or after 12 August 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from High Street to outside number 16.

The alternative route is via Offham Road, Teston Road, St Leonards Street, High Street.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

SPONDEN LANE, SANDHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to restore a BT Openreach service, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sponden Lane, Sandhurst, on or after 30 August 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from A268 Queen Street to outside Sponden Oast.

The alternative route is via A268 Queen Street/Rye Road, A28 Hastings Road, B2086 Benenden Road/Rolvenden Road/The Street, Iden Green Road, Mill Street.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 11th August 2013

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 0300 333 5539 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

ATHLETICS

Rising sprint star Asher-Smith out to prove age is no barrier in Russia

Dina Asher-Smith, the youngest member of Great Britain's team at the World Championships in Moscow this week, talks to **Greg Miles** about the wait for exam results and her big opportunity

IT was not that long ago Dina Asher-Smith was sitting her exams and thinking about the summer ahead.

Now the 17-year-old has jetted off to Moscow as part of a women's 4x100m relay team showing plenty of promise ahead of the World Athletics Championships.

It was an unexpected call-up for the Orpington athlete but a justified one. She ran the opening leg of Britain's fastest 4x100m relay in 12 years two weeks ago at the Anniversary Games at the London Olympic stadium. It was also the fourth-fastest time in the nation's history in that event.

The trip completes a whirlwind summer for the Blackheath and Bromley racer, who will also be finding out her AS-level results while in Moscow on Wednesday.

She is, though, just hoping to make the most of the experience ahead of her race, which comes on the final day, next Sunday.

"We've got lots of time to soak up the atmosphere. I think it's a good thing having to wait, because I can learn from the trip. It gives me time to sit down and watch everything," she said.

Her inclusion in the squad came as a bit of a surprise, with Asher-Smith previously only focusing on the European Junior Championships in Italy last month, when she won gold in the 200m and the 4x100m relay.

That performance and the one in London at the end of last month ensured she had a place on the plane.

Speaking from the squad's camp in Barcelona, from where they left for Moscow on Wednesday, she said: "I'm still shocked I've been selected. When I got the call, I was like 'No way'. I just asked him to repeat it to me in case I was dreaming. It was a bit embarrassing.

"I was just focusing on the European Juniors. I'm one of those people that when I set a target I don't look at anything else – it's tunnel vision."

While in Moscow she will be able to cheer on Blackheath and Bromley team-mate, Dartford sprinter Adam Gemili, with the 19-year-old running in the 200m and the 4x100m relay.

His 200m heats are on Friday, with the semi-finals that afternoon and the final on Saturday. The relay takes place on the final day. He has been looking after Asher-Smith on their stay.

"We're pretty good friends," she said. "He's like my big brother here – we get on really well. He's been making sure I don't get lost.

"I will be rooming with [team-mate] Annabelle Lewis in Moscow. She's got more experience but is almost as new as I am. It means we have a chance to talk about all the things we've seen."

The team have had time to gel on and off the track in Barcelona, giving Asher-Smith no reason to believe they cannot replicate their time from London last month.

"The Anniversary Games went really well," she said. "It was the fastest time in 12 years. We are really happy with it.

"I think we can replicate it. Me and team-mate Anyika [Onuora] didn't have too many practices together, but the other girls are fine. We've had time in Spain to iron things out. I don't see why we can't go as fast."

That run came in front of a sell-out 90,000 crowd at the Olympic stadium, but it was not a new experience for Asher-Smith. She was given plenty of inspiration last summer as a box-carrier on two finals days, one of which was Super Saturday when Team GB famously bagged three gold medals at the Olympic stadium.

"That's definitely the biggest crowd I've seen," she said. "It helped me realise the pros and cons. There's that much more adrenaline. Then again, when you're going into the baton changes, you have to shout that much louder."

The last 18 months has confirmed that athletics is a career worth pursuing for Asher-Smith. An injury picked up playing hockey two years ago also played a part, but she is also making sure she keeps up with her studies, with Wednesday the day she finds out her AS-level results in biology, chemistry, English and history.

"Even after the World Juniors last year I wasn't sure – I thought I was doing it as a hobby. I wasn't taking it seriously. When I ran 23.14 seconds in the 200m in Loughborough in May, I thought I better take it seriously," she said.

"Getting my results on Wednesday could be tragic. I might put it off in case it's bad. My family are staying at home because coming to Moscow was a surprise for us all. They are picking up my results for me. I was planning on having it sent to me, but my school want to know what my options are the next day."

Picture: ACTION IMAGES/JED LEICESTER

WINNING WAYS: Dina Asher-Smith, left, and Annabelle Lewis celebrate after winning the 4x100m relay at the recent Anniversary Games

Britain's top five 4x100m relay times

1980 August 1: Olympics in Moscow, Russia – **42.43 secs**

2001 August 11: World Championships, in Edmonton, Canada – **42.60 secs**

1982 September 11: European Athletics Championships in Athens, Greece – **42.66 secs**

2013 July 26: Anniversary Games, London – **42.69 secs**

1983 August 10: World Championships in Helsinki, Finland – **42.71 seconds**

WORLD RECORD set by USA at London 2012 – **40.82 seconds**

SPORTS SHORTS

MOTORSPORT

Best finish of season for Ashford's Camier

LEON Camier continued his impressive form at Silverstone with a third and fifth at the track in the Superbike World Championship.

The 27-year-old from Ashford claimed third in race one, which was the FIXI Crescent Suzuki rider's best finish of the season, and fifth in race two after it was red-flagged when a rider crashed out.

The results push Camier into ninth in the series, which heads to the Nürburgring next on Sunday, September 1.

ICE HOCKEY

Defenceman Miller returns to Dynamos

INVICTA Dynamos defenceman Tyrone Miller has returned to the club for his first full season.

The 30-year-old joined the Mos midway through last season from Streatham Redskins and has done enough to earn another deal.

"Tyrone has years of experience behind him but at 30 still has years of hockey left in him. He has played at a higher level for over a decade and proven himself to be one of the best in our division, having moved into the NIHL South back in 2010/11," said Mos coach Kevin Parrish.

ATHLETICS

Entries still open for city's half-marathon

THERE is still time to enter the Canterbury Half Marathon, which takes place at the end of the month.

The race will see some of the county's top runners competing alongside an international field on Monday, August 26. The race starts at 10am in Merton Lane. There is also a two-mile fun run and children's race on the day.

For more information and to enter, visit www.nice-work.org.uk. Entries can also be made on the day.

MOTORSPORT

Byrne eyes maximum points haul at Oulton

SHANE 'Shakey' Byrne is bidding this weekend to become the first rider to secure his place in the end-of-season British Superbike Championship Showdown.

A bumper haul of points from the triple-header at Cheshire's Oulton Park will see him secure his place in the Showdown.

The Sittingbourne rider said: "For me nothing will change. My aim is to go to Oulton Park trying to win all three races and score 75 points and nine podium credits."

Pictures: ADY KERRY

INJURED: Matt Fish could miss a large part of the season after rupturing his anterior cruciate ligament against Colchester United

FOOTBALL

Fish set for long lay-off but Allen remains upbeat

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

MATT Fish's knee injury will be kept in perspective by manager Martin Allen, who has admitted his shock at the seriousness of the defender's potential lay-off.

The full-back went down under no challenge after just three minutes of the opening game of the season against Colchester United last Saturday.

A scan on Monday revealed that he had snapped his anterior cruciate ligament and while it is not thought to require surgery it could see the former Dover Athletic man out for a considerable amount of time.

It is a big blow to the Gills, with Fish proving his doubters wrong to play a big part in the promotion campaign last season, making 44 appearances as the Gills clinched the League Two title. The injury also stretches Allen's already threadbare squad.

It echoes what happened to Gills striker Adam Birchall just weeks after he signed from Dover in 2011, when in a pre-season friendly he ruptured his cruciate ligament and was ruled out for the entire season.

"He [Fish] is going to be out for quite a long time and that is a blow to everyone. It is quite upsetting," said boss Allen. "The consultant will give us further information about how long it will be.

"I would be guessing and speculating it could be six to 12 months. Hopefully, he will be back before the end of the season.

"It was a shock. It upset me. When they pull the shirt on and represent our club, they also represent me. I feel responsible for him."

Telling Fish the results of the scan proved a difficult moment for Allen, even more so given the impression the defender had made on him last year, having previously failed to impress fans in an inconsistent debut season under Andy Hessenthaler.

"When you've got to tell them the news, you just have to deliver bad news," he said. "And it's not nice, especially to someone that's such a hard worker and conscientious young man and such a nice bloke who 15 months ago looked like he was probably heading out the back door. He's turned his career around.

"He's taken on the mantle to improve mentally and physically. If he was your son you would be absolutely proud of him.

"Hopefully, he will be back playing for us before the end of this season because all of that back five deserve to be playing in Division One. I am hopeful and confident."

Allen is remaining philosophical about Fish's recovery.

"After a little while I put it into context – it's a knee injury," he said. "It's not life-threatening. We are human beings – it's bad news, but it's not life-threatening.

"We will do all we can to get him through it. We try to put it into perspective. It is a blow and a difficult one, but there are other things like illnesses that can be more devastating. We will look after him and keep it all on a level, but of course it is a serious injury."

Academy right-back Stephen Butcher made his professional debut after Fish went off, but Michael Harriman, pictured left, will provide the stop-gap in the short term.

The 20-year-old signed on a one-month loan from QPR on Tuesday and went straight into the side to face Bristol City that night.

He made 20 appearances on loan at Wycombe Wanderers last season, playing in the Chairboys' 1-0 win at Priestfield in front of the Sky cameras in February.

He returned to London before the end of the season and made his debut for QPR against Liverpool.

Picture: ADY KERRY

FUTURE: Bradley Dack made his debut last year

FOOTBALL

Dack looking to build on debut season at Gills

FIRST-TEAM football is a priority for young Gills star Bradley Dack, who is hoping to kick on and cement his place in the Gillingham squad.

The 18-year-old broke into Martin Allen's first-team thoughts at the start of last year after impressing in pre-season friendlies.

He was rewarded with eight starts and a further eight appearances from the bench, while also grabbing two goals from midfield as Gillingham clinched the League Two title.

He is hoping to build on that this campaign with the club making the step up to League One.

"I would like to play more games than last year and score more goals," he said. "That's about it, really.

"I just need to get my head down, keep playing well and hopefully get a run of games and score some goals. I will just play my game and see what happens."

The Gills were goalless in their first two games of the season in defeats at home to Colchester United in the League One opener last Saturday and in the first round of the Capital One Cup to Bristol City on Tuesday night. However, Dack is not worried by that and feels they have enough ability to find the net.

"It's a fine line. We are creating chances – it will come," he said. "There are goals in the team everywhere, from Cody [McDonald], Keds [Danny Kedwell], Bayo [Akinfenwa], [Antonio] German. In midfield, Whelps [Chris Whelpdale] scores goals, and myself.

"It's a long season of 46 games. I'm sure we will start winning soon."

■ **After travelling to Wolves this weekend, the Gills are back at Priestfield next Saturday when they host promotion-hopefuls Brentford.**

CRICKET

Edwards to captain England in Ashes

ENGLAND women's Ashes squad will be top-heavy with Kent talent when it starts this weekend.

Kent and England captain Charlotte Edwards will lead the side. She is joined by county team-mates Laura Marsh, Tammy Beaumont, Lydia Greenway and Natasha Farrant. Left-arm seamer Farrant, 17, has been included solely in the T20 squad, while the other four are also in the Test and ODI teams.

The women's series consists of just the one Test, which starts on Sunday this weekend at Wormsley Cricket Ground in Staffordshire. It is followed by three ODIs, the first at Lord's on August 20, followed by two at Sussex's Hove ground on August 23 and 25.

The series is finished off with three T20 matches on August 27 at Chelmsford in Essex, August 29 at the Ageas Bowl in Hampshire and on August 31 at Durham's Riverside Ground.

The three T20 matches will be broadcast live on Sky Sports, with the second and third matches taking place directly before England men play Australia.

Picture: ADY KERRY

SKIPPER: Charlotte Edwards

MOTORSPORT

Snetterton a turning point for Jackson

A MID-SEASON break is just what the doctor ordered for Airwaves Racing as they picked up a double podium and six top-eight finishes as the British Touring Car Championship resumed at Snetterton.

Aron Smith secured a sixth and two third places, while Mat Jackson finished eighth, fourth and second to make it the Wrotham-based team's most successful weekend of the season at the Norfolk track.

The victories last Sunday also marked the first anniversary of the team using their NGTC Ford Focus STs.

It was, though, a torrid weekend for Addison Lee Motorbase driver Liam Griffin, who did not finish in any of the three races because of mechanical problems and a crash in the second race.

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

SECOND: Jackson on podium

Jackson said: "It's a massive turnaround for our season from where we've started and to come here and be able to challenge for wins is mega.

"I feel sure that we can deliver the results we need to be back in the mix.

"We knew that we were more than capable of delivering wins and it's been massively frustrating, but the second half is certainly going to be interesting to watch because both Aron and myself are back in the mix."

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